

SUBJ: DACOWITS RFI #6 - December QBM

FROM: CG – 1K2

TO: DACOWITS Committee

THRU: Office of Diversity & Inclusion (DPR - 4)

FAMILY PLANNING

In accordance with DACOWITS’ Terms of Reference, the Well-Being and Treatment (WB&T) Subcommittee will examine existing Defense Department and Military Services’ institutional policies and procedures to identify gaps that potentially inhibit family planning, to include eligibility for fertility services. In addition, the WB&T Subcommittee will assess the demand for expanded fertility access within a constrained supply of resources and identify obstacles and challenges to obtain access to care.

The Committee requests an updated **written response** from the **USD(P&R), DHA, and the Military Services (Army, Department of the Navy, Marine Corps, Department of the Air Force, and Coast Guard)** on the following:

DACOWITS:

- a. **USD(P&R) and Military Services:** Provide copies of links to all DoD and Service instructions, regulations, and policies that address the subject of fertility services and availability to the military personnel.
- b. **USD(P&R) and Military Services:** What policy accommodations exist to provide for leave, travel reimbursement, or other measures to enable servicewomen to seek civilian fertility care when it is not available to them through the military healthcare system?

CG Response:

- a. Nothing to report.
- b. In accordance with DOD Memorandum and as described per the following link, [Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care | Health.mil](#), service women have the right to access reproductive health services and travel reimbursement for non-covered reproductive health care.

Coast Guard [ALCOAST 087/23 - MAR 2023 UPDATE TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE \(govdelivery.com\)](#) updates COMDTINST M10000.8A to authorize administrative absence up to 21 days per request from their normal duty station to receive, or to accompany a dual-military spouse or a dependent who receives, non-covered reproductive health

care without loss of pay or earned leave. Convalescent leave may also be granted following receipt of non-covered reproductive health care. The Joint Travel Regulation authorizes service members and authorized dependents travel and transportation allowances to receive non-covered reproductive health care services when timely access to reproductive health care services is not available within the local area of the member's PDS, TDY location, or last location to which the dependent was transported on Government orders.

CG service members may also seek assistance through CG Mutual Assistance ([CGMA | Assisted Reproductive Services \(ARS\) \(cgmahq.org\)](#)) for access to no-interest loans to offset the cost of reproductive health services that are not covered under TRICARE.

Please note the attached letter from DHA which further describes covered and non-covered fertility services through TRICARE and military treatment facilities.



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

Healthcare Operations

October 17, 2023

Lieutenant Antonio D. Cole
2703 Martin Luther King JR Avenue
STOP 7200
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Lieutenant Cole:

Thank you for your interest in TRICARE's coverage of fertility treatments for active duty service members. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss our comprehensive fertility and maternity coverage.

TRICARE may cover some types of assisted reproductive services. These services must be medically necessary and combined with coital conception. This includes infertility testing and treatment, including correction of the physical cause of infertility. Diagnostic services including semen analysis and sperm function tests, hormone evaluation, chromosomal studies, and bacteriologic investigations. TRICARE does not cover artificial or intrauterine insemination or non-coital reproductive services such as in vitro fertilization.

Service members seriously ill or injured on active duty who lost the ability to reproduce coitally as a result may have additional coverage options within the Supplemental Health Care Program. For those who qualify, sperm and egg retrieval, in vitro fertilization, and artificial insemination may be available. Service members who did not lose the ability to coitally reproduce due to serious illness or injury on active duty and TRICARE beneficiaries who do not otherwise qualify for the coverage services related to an injury or illness may pursue fertility treatment not otherwise covered by TRICARE at a military treatment facility with an Obstetrical and Gynecologic Graduate Medical Education (GME) program. These programs offer space available treatments with associated fees for external collaborative partners, reproductive endocrinology, and infertility treatment with assisted reproductive technology. Costs are often less than community-based care.

GME Locations:

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
<https://walterreed.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Womens-Health-Pregnancy/Reproductive-Endocrinology-and-Infertility>

Naval Hospital San Diego, San Diego, CA
<https://ivfoptions.com/clinic/naval-medical-center-san-diego-infertility-clinic/>

San Antonio Military Medical Center, San Antonio, TX
<https://bamc.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Womens-Health-Pregnancy/Reproductive-Endocrinology-Infertility>

Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, WA
<https://madigan.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Womens-Health-Pregnancy/Reproductive-Endocrinology-and-Infertility-Service>

Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI
<https://trippler.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Womens-Health-Pregnancy/Reproductive-Endocrinology-Infertility-REI-Center>

Womack Army Medical Center, Fayetteville, NC
<https://womack.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Womens-Health-Pregnancy/Reproductive-Endocrinology-and-Infertility-REI>

Because we recognize the importance of family planning and maternity care for the population we serve, TRICARE offers robust maternity care services worldwide. Our maternity care brochure https://tricare.mil/Publications/Brochures/maternity_care/ outlines our program. I am pleased to note additional childbirth and breastfeeding services are available under the Childbirth and Breastfeeding Support demonstration. This demonstration expands coverage by providing up to six visits by a certified labor doula and additional lactation/breast feeding support services. It is currently available in the United States and will be expanded overseas. Additional information is available at <https://tricare.mil/cbsd>.

Thank you for your interest in the Military Health System and its beneficiaries. The Defense Health Agency proudly serves our Nation's military heroes and their families, and is committed to providing them the best possible health care.

Sincerely,



Kenneth P. Yale, DDS, JD
Acting Chief, TRICARE Health Plan