

**(UNCLASSIFIED)**

INFORMATION PAPER

DASG-HSZ  
18 August 2022

**SUBJECT:** Medical and administrative support to Servicewomen experiencing pregnancy loss or neonatal death.

1. Purpose: To provide information to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) about medical, mental health, and other support and leave opportunities for Servicewomen who experience an abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth, or death of a newborn after birth (RFI 12).

2. Background: Pregnancy loss and newborn deaths contribute to increased medical and mental health needs, which may be particularly difficult for Soldiers who do not have family or strong support systems.

3. Facts:

a. Through TRICARE Health Plans, Soldiers experiencing pregnancy loss or a neonatal death have medical care and mental health care available through direct or network care options. TRICARE Non-Emergency Mental Health Care is also available without the need for a referral or pre-authorization for outpatient mental health care.

b. Follow-up medical evaluations are part of the routine, evidence-based practice within the medical system upon conclusion of a pregnancy. In addition to childbirth, conclusion of pregnancy includes abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Healthcare providers should assess for mental health symptoms during these follow-up visits, in accordance with guidelines set forth by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

c. In addition to the mental health resources provided through the Defense Health Agency Markets, Soldiers may also receive non-medical support from the Chaplain, local support groups, or from military community networks such as Military OneSource, the Military Crisis Line or Military Family Life Counseling.

d. Army Directive 2022-06 provides standardized convalescent leave recommendations by gestational age following the conclusion of pregnancy, to include miscarriage, and stillbirth. This AD specifies 42 days convalescent leave for pregnancies concluding at or beyond 20 weeks and for a neonatal death in the first 28 days of life.

e. Army Regulation 600-8-10 also allows for Soldiers to request emergency leave in the event of a death of a dependent, which includes the death of a newborn.

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