

## **TRICARE Beneficiaries Reassured of Robust Pharmacy Service**

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The expiration of the retail pharmacy contract between Express Scripts, Inc (ESI) and the Walgreens pharmacy chain affects TRICARE beneficiaries. The contract expired on Dec. 31, 2011. Barring a new agreement, Walgreens is no longer a pharmacy network provider.

“Our primary concern is to ensure our beneficiaries have uninterrupted access to their pharmacy benefits,” said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, chief of the TRICARE Pharmaceutical Operations Directorate. “The majority of beneficiaries have access to another network pharmacy very close to home as our pharmacy contract requires ESI to maintain high access standards. There are still 56,000 network pharmacies nationwide – easily meeting or exceeding our access requirements.”

In addition to 56,000 network pharmacies, TRICARE beneficiaries have other pharmacy options, including military pharmacies at no cost; convenient, low cost TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery; and non-network pharmacies. Beneficiaries who use non-network pharmacies - including Walgreens - pay full prescription costs upfront and submit their claims for reimbursement. Reimbursement will occur only after the non-network deductible is met.

Out-of-network costs include a 50 percent point-of-service cost share for TRICARE Prime, after deductibles are met. All other non-active duty TRICARE beneficiaries pay the greater of a \$12 copay or 20 percent of the total cost for formulary medications and the greater of \$25 or 20 percent of the total cost for non-formulary medications, after deductibles are met.

For more on pharmacy costs go to [www.TRICARE.mil/pharmacycosts](http://www.TRICARE.mil/pharmacycosts).

Beneficiaries changing from Walgreens pharmacy can simply take their current prescription bottle to their new network pharmacy to have the prescription transferred. To find a nearby network pharmacy, use the “find a pharmacy” feature on [www.express-scripts.com/tricare](http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare). Beneficiaries who want help finding a pharmacy, changing their

medications to Home Delivery or who have other questions can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-885-6313.

The issues between ESI and Walgreens are not specific to TRICARE. If Walgreens drops out of the ESI network, other employer-sponsored and some Medicare Part D pharmacy plans will also be affected. Beneficiaries with questions and concerns about this issue can go to [www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE](http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE) for more information.

“We are committed to ensuring all our pharmacy beneficiaries are aware of the many options that TRICARE makes available to them,” said Brig. Gen. Bryan Gamble, TRICARE Deputy Director. “By now, all of our beneficiaries who use Walgreens to fill prescriptions should have been contacted to advise them of their pharmacy options and to take action to ensure their pharmacy benefit remains uninterrupted. The health of our Service members, retirees and their families remains my number one priority.”

In addition to the letters already mailed to each beneficiary, ESI has contacted affected beneficiaries by telephone and followed up with reminder letters throughout December. Beneficiaries taking medications to treat hemophilia, multiple sclerosis, and some rheumatoid arthritis and cancer drugs have also been contacted.

TRICARE pharmacy information and updates can be found at [www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy).