

# Dependent Health Care Benefits are not Automatic

According to DoD and TRICARE officials, an important step that most military families forget when traveling or transferring is updating health care system information.

Although active-duty service members are automatically registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), their family members are not.

Maintaining current DEERS records is essential to receiving timely, effective TRICARE benefits. Prior to rendering medical services to dependents, network providers and pharmacies must verify current DEERS eligibility. Remember, DEERS information must be updated upon:

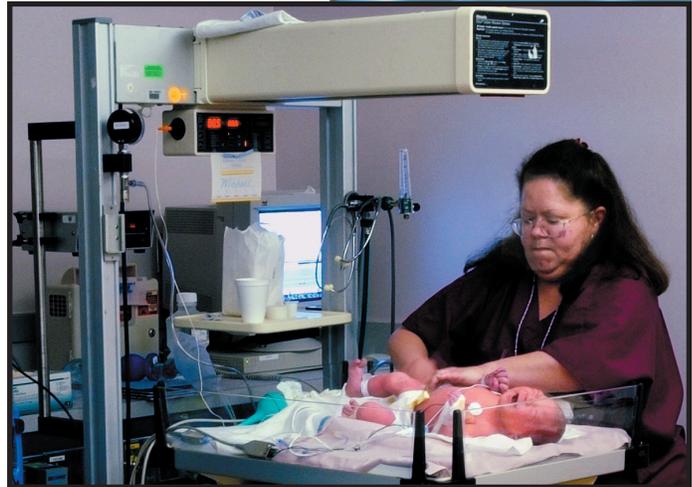
- marriage,
- birth or adoption of a child,
- divorce,
- relocation, and
- retirement.

Children over 21 years old maintaining full-time student status are also required to update DEERS registration.

Active-duty service members should submit pertinent changes on DD Form 1172 (Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card and DEERS Enrollment) available at any uniformed services identification (ID) card facility. Dependents not residing with their sponsors, can update DEERS information by providing a notarized DD-1172 with their sponsor's signature and:

- visiting ID card facility;
- calling Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at (800) 538-9552;
- faxing changes to DEERS at (831) 655-8317;
- mailing address changes to Defense Manpower Data Center Office, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, Calif. 93955-6771;
- electronically registering changes online at:

[www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS/default.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS/default.cfm)



**For a complete list of Uniformed Services ID Card facility locations seachable by zip code, visit: [www.dmdc.osd.mil](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil).**



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