- facility, personnel and other resources to increase the availability of services in the facility. All beneficiary enrollment categories may benefit from this increase.
- (B) Health care finder, an administrative activity that facilitates referrals to appropriate health care services in the military facility and civilian provider network. All beneficiary enrollment categories may use the health care finder.
- (C) Integrated quality and utilization management services, potentially standardizing reviews for military and civilian sector providers. All beneficiary categories may benefit from these services.
- (D) Special pharmacy programs for areas affected by base realignment and closure actions. This includes special eligibility for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries.
- (iv) Consolidated schedule of charges. A fourth major feature of TRICARE is a consolidated schedule of charges, incorporating revisions that reduce differences in charges between military and civilian services. In general, the TRICARE program reduces out-of-pocket costs for civilian sector care.
- (b) Triple option benefit in general. Where the TRICARE program is implemented, CHAMPUS-eligible beneficiaries are given the options of enrolling in the TRICARE Prime Plan (also referred to as "Prime"); being a participant in TRICARE Extra on a case-by-case basis (also referred to as "Extra"); or remaining in the TRICARE Standard Plan (also referred to as "Standard").
- (1) Choice voluntary. With the exception of active duty members, the choice of whether to enroll in Prime, to participate in Extra, or to remain in Standard is voluntary for all eligible beneficiaries. This applies to active duty dependents and eligible retired members, dependents of retired members, and survivors. For dependents who are minors, the choice will be exercised by a parent or guardian.
- (2) Active duty members. For active duty members located in areas where the TRICARE program is implemented, enrollment in Prime is mandatory.
- (c) Eligibility for enrollment in Prime. Where the TRICARE program is implemented, all CHAMPUS- eligible beneficiaries are eligible to enroll. However, some rules and procedures are different for dependents of active duty members than they are for retirees, their dependents and survivors. In addition, where the TRICARE program is implemented, a military medical treatment facility commander or other

- authorized individual may establish priorities, consistent with paragraph (c) of this section, based on availability or other operational requirements, for when and whether to offer the enrollment opportunity.
- (1) Active duty members. Active duty members are required to enroll in Prime when it is offered. Active duty members shall have first priority for enrollment in Prime. Because active duty members are not CHAMPUS eligible, when active duty members obtain care from civilian providers outside the military medical treatment facility, the supplemental care program and its requirements (including § 199.16) will apply.
- (2) Dependents of active duty members. (i) Dependents of active duty members are eligible to enroll in Prime. After all active duty members, dependents of active duty members will have second priority for enrollment.
- (ii) If all dependents of active duty members within the area concerned cannot be accepted for enrollment in Prime at the same time, the MTF Commander (or other authorized individual) may establish priorities within this beneficiary group category. The priorities may be based on first-come, first-served, or alternatively, be based on rank of sponsor, beginning with the lowest pay grade.
- (3) Retired member, dependents of retired members, and survivors. (i) All CHAMPUS-eligible retired members, dependents of retired members, and survivors are eligible to enroll in Prime. After all active duty members are enrolled and availability of enrollment is assured for all active duty dependents wishing to enroll, this category of beneficiaries will have third priority for enrollment.
- (ii) If all CHAMPUS-eligible retired members, dependents of retired members, and survivors within the area concerned cannot be accepted for enrollment in Prime at the same time, the MTF Commander (or other authorized individual) may allow enrollment within this beneficiary group category on a first come, first served basis.
- (4) Participation in extra and standard. All CHAMPUS-eligible beneficiaries who do not enroll in Prime may participate in Extra on a case-by-case basis or remain in Standard.
- (d) Health benefits under Prime. Health benefits under Prime, set forth in paragraph (d) of this section, differ from those under Extra and Standard, set forth in paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section.
- (1) Military treatment facility (MTF) care. All participants in Prime are eligible to receive care in military

- treatment facilities. Active duty dependents who are participants in Prime will be given priority for such care over active duty dependents who declined the opportunity to enroll in Prime. The latter group, however, retains priority over retirees, their dependents and survivors. There is no priority for MTF care among retirees, their dependents and survivors based on enrollment status.
- (2) Non-MTF care for active duty members. Under Prime, non-MTF care needed by active duty members continues to be arranged under the supplemental care program and subject to the rules and procedures of that program, including those set forth in § 199.16.
- (3) Benefits covered for CHAMPUS eligible beneficiaries for civilian sector care. The provisions of § 199.18 regarding the Uniform HMO Benefit apply to TRICARE Prime enrollees.
- (e) Health benefits under the TRICARE extra plan. Beneficiaries not enrolled in Prime, although not in general required to use the Prime civilian preferred provider network, are eligible to use the network on a case-by-case basis under Extra. The health benefits under Extra are identical to those under Standard, set forth in paragraph (f) of this section, except that the CHAMPUS cost sharing percentages are lower than usual CHAMPUS cost sharing. The lower requirements are set forth in the consolidated schedule of charges in paragraph (m) of this section.
- (f) Health benefits under the TRICARE standard plan. Where the TRICARE program is implemented, health benefits under Prime, set forth under paragraph (d) of this section, and Extra, set forth under paragraph (e) of this section, are different than health benefits under Standard, set forth in this paragraph (f).
- (1) Military treatment facility (MTF) care. All nonenrollees (including beneficiaries not eligible to enroll) continue to be eligible to receive care in military treatment facilities on a space available basis.
- (a) Freedom of choice of civilian provider. Except as stated in § 199.4(a) in connection with nonavailability statement requirements, CHAMPUS-eligible participants in Standard maintain their freedom of choice of civilian provider under CHAMPUS. All nonavailability statement requirements of § 199.4(a) apply to Standard participants.
- (3) CHAMPUS benefits apply. The benefits, rules and procedures of the CHAMPUS basis program as set forth in this part, shall apply to CHAMPUS-eligible participants in Standard.