OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS
SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 810, 5111 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

May 9, 2005

Dear TRICARE Beneficiary,

This letter is to inform you about the recent removal of three medications from the Department of Defense Uniform Formulary. These medications – Nexium®, a medication for ulcers and other stomach problems, and Teveten® and Teveten® HCT, both used to treat high blood pressure – are now non-formulary medications.

Effective July 17, 2005, if you use these medications you will be required to pay $22 for up to a 30-day or 90-day supply, depending on whether you fill the prescription at a TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacy (TRRx) or through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP). You may also have prescriptions filled at non-network pharmacies, but you will pay significantly more and must meet a deductible (for more information, see http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/newcopay.cfm). Active duty members pay no cost shares; however, unless medical necessity is established, active duty members may not obtain non-formulary drugs. Nexium®, Teveten® or Teveten® HCT will no longer be routinely available at military treatment facilities (MTFs). You can find a list of formulary alternatives to these medications using the Formulary Search Tool found at www.tricareformularysearch.org.

If your provider establishes medical necessity for using Nexium®, Teveten®, or Teveten® HCT, you may qualify for the $9 cost share for up to a 30-day TRRx supply, or for up to a 90-day TMOP supply of medication. MTFs may fill requests for these non-formulary medications only if both of the following conditions are met:

1) An MTF provider writes the prescription; and
2) Medical necessity is established.

MTFs may also (but are not required to) fill a Nexium®, Teveten® or Teveten® HCT prescription written by a non-MTF provider if the beneficiary is referred by the MTF and medical necessity is established. For more information about medical necessity, please visit www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy.

Should you have further questions about your TRICARE Pharmacy benefit, please contact your local MTF, the TMOP at (866) 363-8667, or the TRRx Customer Service line at (866) 363-8779.

The Department of Defense Pharmacy Program Office