



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
48TH FIGHTER WING (USAF)**



12 January 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SPACE AVAILABLE ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

FROM: 48 MDG/CC

SUBJECT: Space Available (Space-A) Healthcare at the 48th Medical Group (48 MDG)

1. The 48 MDG is a Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) within the Military Health System (MHS). The primary mission of the MHS is to maintain the health of military personnel so that they can carry out their military mission and be prepared to deliver healthcare during wartime. The MHS delivers healthcare to eligible beneficiaries in MTFs through TRICARE, a managed care system. U.S. Civilians who are not TRICARE eligible should not plan on the availability of Space-A healthcare at the 48 MDG to meet their medical needs.
2. The 48 MDG currently offers primary and limited specialty care services to over 17,000 TRICARE Prime enrolled beneficiaries. In accordance with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs policy, including *TRICARE Policy for Access to Care* (HA Policy 11-005, Feb 23, 2011), the 48 MDG provides healthcare to its beneficiaries according to the following priorities:
 - a. Priority 1: Includes Active Duty Service Members
 - b. Priority 2: Includes Active Duty Family Members who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime Overseas
 - c. Priority 3: Includes Retirees and their family members; eligible Command-Sponsored Dependents of Active Duty Service Members (i.e. Dependent Parents); and TRICARE Young Adult Prime beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Plus.
3. According to Department of Defense and TRICARE policy, once the above priorities have been appropriately complied with and the healthcare needs of enrolled beneficiaries and TRICARE Access to Care standards are met, the 48 MDG Commander may in certain circumstances offer medical care to individuals who are not TRICARE eligible (e.g., GS, AAFES, NAF, and DoDDS civilian employees). In such circumstances, the 48 MDG may generally only offer Space-A healthcare as provider and space allows and on a fully reimbursable basis (fee for service). (This policy does not apply to Deployment Health-related appointments that are mandated for civilians who deploy on behalf of the US Air Force).
4. The 48 MDG must ensure that appointments are primarily available for its enrolled beneficiary population to meet MHS Access to Care standards. The 48 MDG reserves all primary care appointments before 1200 for TRICARE Prime/Plus enrolled beneficiaries. To ensure that enrolled beneficiaries have maximum access to future appointments, the 48 MDG

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does not offer Space-A follow-up or other future appointments in primary care. Space-A will only be booked on the day of the request.

5. Space-A appointments are offered through the following process:

- a. Persons seeking Space-A appointments may call the 48 MDG's Appointment Center (DSN 226-8010 or commercial 01638-528010) after 1200 to ask about the availability of same-day appointments.
- b. If a same-day appointment is available after that time, Appointment Center personnel may schedule a Space-A appointment with an available provider (appointments will not be scheduled for follow-up or other future appointments). These appointments should be primarily for acute needs as chronic conditions are not intended to be managed for Space-A individuals.

6. The 48 MDG cannot guarantee the availability of Space-A appointments. U.S. Civilians who are not TRICARE Prime eligible and non-enrolled TRICARE beneficiaries should not plan on the availability of Space-A healthcare at the 48 MDG to meet their primary care medical needs.

7. Anyone unsure of their benefits and/or status should contact the TRICARE Service Center at 226-8688 or commercial 01638-528688.

8. The point of contact for this policy is the Group Practice Management Staff at DSN 226-8478/8305 or commercial 01638-528474/8305).

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