# FLAG VOICE #454

**Coast Guard Pharmacy Dispensing Changes**

The Coast Guard must temporarily change the way pharmacy services are provided for active duty members, dependents, and retirees at Coast Guard dispensing locations. The Department of Defense (DoD) awarded a new TRICARE Pharmacy contract serving approximately 10 million beneficiaries. The contract implemented a new electronic medication reconciliation system. Unfortunately, this change is incompatible with current Coast Guard electronic governance of pharmacy services.

In order to protect patient safety, the Health, Safety and Work-Life Service Center (HSWL SC) will implement the following pharmacy guidance effective 26 May 2015:

* Active Duty members
  + If assigned to locations with a pharmacist - may continue to receive in-house prescription medications. Coast Guard medical and dental officers will perform manual medication reconciliation and interaction checks with each patient encounter.
  + If assigned to the CG Yard, TRACEN Yorktown, or AIRSTA Borinquen - may continue to receive in-house prescription medications. Coast Guard medical and dental officers/pharmacy technicians will perform medication manual reconciliation and interaction checks with each patient encounter.
  + All other sites without a pharmacist are not authorized to dispense medications.
* Dependents and Retirees
  + Prescription medications from Coast Guard pharmacies will be temporarily suspended due to lack of electronic reconciliation capability. Dependents and Retirees continue to have access to the TRICARE pharmacy benefit. They will be referred to a local DoD Military Treatment Facility (where there is no additional co-pay), the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (otherwise known as Home Delivery; with no additional co-pay for generics); or a TRICARE participating retail network pharmacy, with a minimum $8.00 co-pay for generics.
* Dependents (enrolled at AIRSTA Borinquen) - may continue to receive in-house prescription medications. Coast Guard medical and dental officers/pharmacy technicians will perform manual medication reconciliation and interaction checks with each patient encounter.

We anticipate normal pharmacy services will be restored in the future which will include electronic reconciliation capability for authorized customers.

HSWL SC staff will liaise with Base, AIRSTA and SECTOR commands with affected clinics and pharmacy dispensing operations. Questions regarding these Health Services changes may be directed to CDR James Cannon at (757) 628-4334, e-mail james.d.cannon @ uscg.mil or CAPT Daniel Hasenfang at (757) 628-4331, e-mail daniel.l.hasenfang@ uscg.mil.

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