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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-112//
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SUBJ: COAST GUARD SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM: CATEGORIES OF SPECIAL NEEDS A.
Coast Guard Special Needs Program, COMDTINST 1754.7 (SERIES) 1. Per REF A, the Senior Medical Executive (SME) is responsible for reviewing the Family Member Medical Summary, DD Form 2792 (for medical, psychological, and physical conditions) and Special Education/Early Intervention Summary, DD Form 2792-1 (for educational special needs) to determine an Active Duty (AD) members eligibility for enrollment or disenrollment from the Special Needs Program.

2. In order to create a standardized and more efficient enrollment process, the Special Needs Program will be instituting a pilot program which will establish categories for all Special Needs Program enrollees. These categories are defined as follows:

a. Category I - Used for monitoring purposes with no limitation of geographical assignment. This category is used to make the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center aware that there have been special needs in the past that have the potential to recur, conditions that are in remission, and conditions that are early onset. Examples of Category I conditions: cancer remission, early onset Alzheimers, etc.

b. Category II - Used to identify and pinpoint geographical locations and assignments where the enrollee only requires primary care level treatment (i.e. a regular medical doctor) and does not require specialized services. This category also includes situations where there is no medical condition, but an educational special need exists that should be considered. Examples of Category II conditions: hypertension, mild migraines, and eczema.

c. Category III - Requires specialized services which necessitate that enrollees live within 3 hours drive time from a major medical treatment facility. Category III may also indicate that the family member with special needs has a complex or specialized educational need. Examples of Category III conditions: moderate disabilities, diabetes type II, and asthma.

d. Category IV - Requires specialized care and treatment which necessitate that enrollees live in a major medical area in the United States and within 30 minutes drive time from a major medical treatment facility. Category IV family member may require special housing needs such as living in a single story house. Similar to Category III, Category IV can also indicate complex or specialized educational needs. Examples of Category IV conditions: severe lupus, cerebral palsy, chronic heart disease, and major depression or other mental health conditions.

e. Category V: Indicates highly specialized, complex, and severe needs. Category V represents the highest risk cases within the Coast Guard workforce. They require continuity of care best served in metropolitan locations with wide availability of medical services and other external support resources. Examples of Category V conditions: multiple or severe disabilities, complicated cancer cases, severe cases of autism, and extensive care needs.

3. The Health, Safety, Work-Life Service Center (HSWL SC) Quality Assurance Manager will determine criterion for a representative sample of 10 percent of the total number of Special Needs cases.

SMEs will categorize this representative sample in their area of responsibility into one of the five categories described above (based on the information in the DD-2792). In order to categorize the members, the SMEs should obtain DD-2792s from their local FRS.

4. Once the criterion has been developed, HSWL SC will provide the SMEs with an excel spreadsheet that will be used for documentation.

SMEs should send their completed spreadsheet to HSWL SC Operational Medicine (CAPT Mark Comnick) NLT 1 December 2013.

5. POC: CAPT Mark Comnick (HSWL SC), 510-637-1359

Email: Mark.R.Comnick(AT)uscg.mil.

6. CAPT Erica Schwartz, Chief, Office of Health Services, sends.

7. Internet release authorized.

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