

**RETAIL PHARMACY'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS:  
OUR NATION'S ACTIVE MILITARY AND RETIREES SHOULD BE ABLE  
TO OBTAIN THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS FROM RETAIL PHARMACIES  
JULY 17, 2006**

Community pharmacy is mobilizing to fight to allow our nation's active military, their families and retirees to continue to obtain their medications from community retail pharmacies.

Right now, a special Congressional Committee is trying to determine how to structure the DOD TRICARE pharmacy program for the next few years. Many of the legislative approaches they are considering will either force TRICARE enrollees to use mail order to obtain their medications or create strong economic incentives to use mail order. All of community pharmacy needs to send three strong messages to Congress now because time is of the essence. Without action, TRICARE enrollees may lose the ability to obtain certain medications from their local pharmacy.

**Give TRICARE Enrollees Choice - Don't Require TRICARE Enrollees to Use Mail Order**

One approach being considered by Congress is to require TRICARE enrollees to use mail order for maintenance medications. TRICARE enrollees, just like Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and enrollees in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), should be able to choose where they would like to obtain their prescription medications – not be forced to use mail order. Those who are serving or have served our country should not be the only beneficiaries of a Federal health program who are denied access to a retail pharmacy. Congress should eliminate the mandatory mail requirement in the Senate bill.

**Manufacturers Should Not Discriminate Against TRICARE Enrollees that Want to Use Retail Pharmacies**

TRICARE mail order (TMOP) and military treatment facilities (MTFs) prescriptions, as well as Medicare, Medicaid, and FEHBP prescriptions, all receive a discount or rebate from drug manufacturers. However, manufacturers do not extend these discounts to TRICARE retail prescriptions, even though Federal law appears to require it. This makes TRICARE retail prescriptions more expensive to DOD than TMOP or MTF prescriptions. Congress needs to adopt the language included in the Senate bill so it is clear that these discounts are extended to TRICARE retail prescriptions. TRICARE enrollees should not be denied access to community retail pharmacies because manufacturers do not provide lower prices to DOD for TRICARE retail prescriptions.

**Create Equal Prescription Cost Sharing for TRICARE Enrollees**

If lower prices are provided by manufacturers for TRICARE retail prescriptions, the need to create copays that would shift TRICARE prescriptions to TMOP is reduced. Congress should structure the TRICARE prescription copays so they do not vary whether TRICARE enrollees obtain their prescriptions through a TRICARE retail pharmacy or the TMOP.

**CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS TODAY WITH THESE THREE MESSAGES!**