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BADGER BENEFITS BRIEF



WISCONSIN



ONE TIME DENTAL BENEFIT FOR SERVICE MEMBERS RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Military personnel who separate from active duty and have unmet dental treatment needs may be authorized treatment from the Veterans Administration (VA) for the one-time correction of those conditions. To qualify for the one-time benefit, veterans must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must have been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable and from a period of active military service of not less than 90 days
- Application for treatment is made at a VA medical center within 90 days after such discharge or release
- The DD Form 214 states that the veteran was not provided a complete dental examination (including x-rays) and all appropriate dental treatment within 90 days prior to discharge or release from active duty.

Eligible veterans can apply by completing a VA Form 10-10EZ at the local VA medical center or online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>

JOINT CHIEFS ENDORSE FUTURE TRICARE ENROLLMENT FEE INCREASE

The Joint Chiefs are joining the Defense Department in seeking to more than triple the annual enrollment fees for officers in TRICARE PRIME and double the fees for enlisted retirees by 2008. DoD wants Congress to jack up fees for those under-65 officer retirees from \$240 a year for individual to \$750, and from \$450 annually for family coverage to \$1,500. The department wants to raise for fees for enlisted retirees under age 65 to \$450 a year for individuals and \$900 a year for families. The deductible for TRICARE STANDARD also would be raised, and an annual enrollment fee would be imposed. Medicare-eligible retirees also would take a hit, with co-payments for retail generic drugs jumping from \$3 to \$5 and for brand name drugs \$9 to \$15 retail, and \$10 by mail order.

VA HOME LOAN LIMIT JUMPS 16%

Effective January 1, 2006 the top limit for no-down-payment loans guaranteed by the DVA went from \$359, 650 to \$417,000. This has been done to keep up with the growing value of homes. You can read additional information regarding this outstanding benefit at: <http://www.homeloans.va.gov> or call 1-800-827-1000

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