

## **Medicare Part B Enrollment for People With Medicare Who Are Eligible for TRICARE**

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) provided for a special enrollment period for Medicare Part B for TRICARE beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A. If you have Medicare Part A (which generally pays for hospital care) and don't have Medicare Part B (which generally pays for doctor visits) you may be able to enroll in Part B without paying a late enrollment penalty.

Most TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries have already been enrolled in Part B.

### **What if I'm not enrolled in Part B?**

If you are under age 65 and have Medicare Part A because you are disabled, and you have not yet signed up for Medicare Part B, you lost your TRICARE coverage on January 1, 2005. You can still sign up for Part B without paying a penalty. Your enrollment can be effective as of January 1, 2005, or the month you sign up. You can also choose to have your enrollment effective any month in 2004. Once you enroll in Medicare Part B, your TRICARE coverage will start on the same day as your Medicare Part B coverage.

If you have Medicare Part A because you are age 65 or older, and did not sign up for Medicare Part B through 2004, you can still sign up for Part B without paying a penalty. Your enrollment can be effective when you sign up, January 1, 2005, or retroactive to any month in 2004. Once you enroll in Medicare Part B, your TRICARE coverage will start on the same day as your Medicare Part B coverage.

### **How can I enroll in Part B?**

You should contact your local social security office or call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. SSA will enroll you in Part B.

### **To get more information about Medicare Part B for TRICARE beneficiaries you can**

- Call 1-866-773-0404 or look at [www.TRICARE.osd.mil](http://www.TRICARE.osd.mil) on the web for information about TRICARE benefits.
- Look at [www.socialsecurity.gov/legislation/tricarefact.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/legislation/tricarefact.html)

*TRICARE is a regionally managed health care program for active duty and retired uniformed services members and their families. TRICARE serves as a supplement to Medicare, paying the Medicare deductible and coinsurance amounts, and for any services not covered by Medicare that TRICARE covers. If you have Medicare Part A because you are age 65 or older, disabled or have end stage renal disease, you MUST BE ENROLLED in Medicare Part B to get TRICARE benefits, unless you have an active duty sponsor.*