

## Tricare: Changes to Access Policies and Payment Rates for Services Provided by Civilian Obstetricians: Gao-07-941r



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## TRICARE: CHANGES TO ACCESS POLICIES AND PAYMENT RATES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY CIVILIAN OBSTETRICIANS: GAO-07-941R

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BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 24 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. About 111, 000 women covered by the Department of Defenses (DOD) TRICARE program gave birth during 2006. During their pregnancies, about half of these women received obstetric care from physicians and other providers practicing at military hospitals and clinics called military treatment facilities (MTF), while half received their care from civilian physicians and other civilian providers. In recent years, the use of civilian obstetric care has increased among TRICARE beneficiaries. In 2004, 51 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries delivered their babies at civilian hospitals; by 2006, 54 percent delivered at civilian hospitals. However, through 2005, some TRICARE beneficiaries reported difficulties obtaining obstetric care from civilian physicians. At the same time, some civilian physicians contended that TRICARE payment rates for obstetric care were too low. TRICARE reimburses physicians for most obstetric care using two global payments, one for uncomplicated vaginal delivery and the other for uncomplicated cesarean delivery, each of which is a single amount that covers a defined set of related services. In the case of obstetrics, these global payments cover a womans prenatal visits, the physicians assistance at delivery of the baby, and postnatal care after the delivery of the baby. Under the TRICARE program, which is administered by DODs TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), beneficiaries may obtain care through three different options. Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICAREs HMO-like option, called TRICARE Prime, generally obtain health care from physicians at an MTF. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries also may obtain care from a network civilian physician when the MTF does not have sufficient capacity to provide care. Beneficiaries who have not enrolled in Prime receive care under TRICARE Extra or TRICARE Standard. These options allow beneficiaries to receive care either from civilian physicians who belong...



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