

## **Medical Coverage Issues for USAFA Cadets:**

Each year this issue generates many questions. The main question being: Should I maintain my cadet on my family health insurance plan once they are at the USAFA?

The other being, what happens when a cadet gets sick away from the AFA while traveling or is home on break?

Medical Care for United States Air Force Academy Cadets – Current as of Spring 2007  
Welcome to the United States Air Force Academy Military Medical Treatment Facility-10th Medical Group. We are dedicated to providing your son/daughter with exceptional service and access to consistently high quality health care. I encourage you and your cadet, once they are settled in, to visit our cadet clinic and hospital.

While assigned to the USAFA as an active student they are entitled by law (Authority is 10.U.S.C. 1074, 6201-6203; 31 U.S.C. 1535) to the following military medical care:

- 1) Direct outpatient Care
- 2) Aeromedical Evacuation
- 3) Dental Care
- 4) Emergency Care
- 5) Immunizations
- 6) Prosthetic Devices (includes hearing aids)

When a cadet is away from the local area, and requires medical care they should first use the nearest military (Army, Navy, or Air Force) medical treatment facility. For assistance in finding a military hospital near your home, call 1-888-874-9378 or visit website: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

Civilian medical facilities should only be used for urgent/emergency situations-never routine. Air Force Instruction 41-101 defines a medical emergency as medical care received in order to prevent loss of limb, eyesight, body fluids, or prevent undue suffering.

Emergency Dental Care is authorized from civilian sources to eliminate or prevent undue pain and suffering. You or your son/daughter must call the Military Medical Support Office @ 1-888-647-6676, option #3 for pre-authorization.

The cadet should identify himself or herself as an active duty member and provide their name, social security number, squadron and their Air Force Academy mailing address. If a civilian provider/facility was used, direct them to mail all bills to Palmetto Government Benefits Administrations at:

PGBA  
Attn: TPR/SHCP  
P.O. Box 870006  
Surfside Beach, SC 29587-8706

The cadet or a parent must report the use of civilian care and any questions to the USAFA Cadet Clinic, Commercial (719) 333-2910, DSN 333-2910. They must also contact our Managed Care Support Contractor, TRIWEST at 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378) to report any

care given in the civilian community. If you receive bills from a civilian hospital, bring them immediately to the TRICARE Service Center, located in the main lobby of our hospital. If you paid for medication or hospital bills, keep all receipts and any other documentation that shows proof of payment, and bring or mail to:

10 MDG/TRICARE Service Center  
4102 Pinion Drive,  
USAFA, CO 80840.

A Cadet Clinic provider must see your son/daughter the next duty day from their return to the USAF Academy if medical treatment was received while away from the Academy.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to maintain health insurance coverage for your son/daughter in the event that they are disenrolled from the USAF Academy or develop catastrophic illnesses (e.g. liver transplant, potential heart transplant...). An average 40 cadets/yr are medically disqualified and the Air Force has no financial obligation once disenrolled (medically or otherwise). Your son/daughter may qualify for Veterans Administration (VA) outpatient/inpatient care which they will determine.

If you need additional information about your cadet's medical coverage, please contact the Cadet Clinic at (719) 333-7980

We look forward to caring for your son/daughter at the 10th Medical Group.

ALAN B. BERG, Col, USAF, MC, SFS  
Commander, 10th Medical Group  
Current at of 4-16-07  
Information provided by the AFA Managed Care Office.