

MILPERSMAN 1740-030

MATERNITY CARE AVAILABLE BEFORE AND AFTER SEPARATION

Responsible Office	CNO (N13)	Phone:	DSN	224-6862
			COM	(703) 614-6862
			FAX	224-6856

Governing Directive	NAVMEDCOMINST 6320.3B
	NAVMEDCOMINST 6320.1E

1. Eligibility Statement

a. Female members of the Regular Navy or Naval Reserve, on active duty or separated under honorable conditions from active duty or from the service for pregnancy are qualified to receive parental care, hospitalization, and postnatal care at Uniformed Services Medical Treatment Facilities (USMTF).

b. Members **are not eligible** if certification from medical authorities document the pregnancy occurred prior to entry into the service or after separation from the service.

c. All care is subject to the availability of space, facilities, and capabilities of the professional staff. Care from civilian sources is not authorized regardless of the circumstances necessitating civilian treatment.

2. Counseling of Member Prior to Separation.

a. Members separated by reason of pregnancy shall be advised of the following prior to separation:

(1) Care for the pregnancy can only be rendered at USMTF.

(2) The Navy cannot pay or provide reimbursement for any care rendered at civilian facilities, to the member or the newborn child, regardless of the circumstances necessitating the use of a civilian source of care.

(3) The uniformed services may provide care for the child in USMTF, both inpatient and outpatient, only during the first 6 weeks (42 days) following delivery.

(4) Ensure contact is made with the USMTF expected to provide maternity benefits as soon as possible following release from active duty to verify that care will be available to the separated mother and newborn child. If care is not available at the intended USMTF, **the member is responsible** for locating a USMTF that can provide maternity benefits or utilize a civilian facility at her own expense.

b. NAVPERS 1070/613, Administrative Remarks, attesting the counseling was provided shall be made by the individual who provided the counseling and signed by the member being released.

3. Application

a. In making application for care in connection with pregnancy, the member should present her DD 214, Certification of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or DD 256, Honorable Discharge Certificate as proof of eligibility for requested care.

b. In large military areas, where more than one military facility is available to provide inpatient maternity care, personnel separated from the regular Navy or Naval Reserve must apply to a "naval" medical facility if one is available. Referral to other uniformed service facilities may be made only when bed space is not available in a naval medical facility.

c. If the mother contemplates release of the child for adoption, all arrangements in this connection, including adoption procedures, must be made by the mother directly with local civil authorities **in advance** of hospitalization. Local Red Cross and public welfare agencies are available to assist. Additionally, NAVMEDCOMINST 6320.3B provides further amplification.

4. When Stationed Overseas

a. Women on duty overseas who become pregnant and who are separated will be returned to one of the 48 contiguous United States or District of Columbia by the first suitable means of transportation for separation from the service. If in the opinion of the naval medical officer, the health of the

woman would be endangered by such transportation, she will be retained on active duty overseas until delivery. In such case the following procedures will be followed:

(1) The commanding officer shall provide for her hospitalization at a naval medical facility if available within the command.

(2) If not available, the service of any other federal hospital which may be available should be utilized.

(3) If naval hospital facilities are not available, care at other sources may be arranged according to NAVMEDCOMINST 6320.1E.

(4) The member shall be returned to one of the 48 contiguous United States or District of Columbia as soon after delivery as her physical condition permits. However, she may remain as a patient in proximity to her infant, if the infant is certified by a naval medical officer as unfit to travel.

(5) If circumstances warrant, both shall be classified as "patients" and ordered to a naval hospital in the continental United States which can be reached by the first suitable means of transportation. Separation of the woman from the naval service shall be effected as soon as possible thereafter.

b. The arrangement for civilian hospitalization in all cases should provide that the hospital charge for the mother include the charge for the infant. The expense of civilian hospitalization or treatment may be defrayed by the Medical Department of the Navy only while the member is **still** on active duty.

c. Until the mother is separated from the service, the infant shall be treated as a dependent of military personnel. Return of the infant with its mother who is in the naval service is authorized. Orders and passenger lists shall indicate the name of the infant.