

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2003
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House Armed Services Committee

**National Defense Priorities from Members for the
FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act
May 8, 2013**

**Pilot Program on Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management Services
Requested by Congressman John P. Sarbanes**

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

As you begin to craft the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, I request that you consider including a pilot program to provide medication therapy management services to TRICARE beneficiaries. Providing these services to the TRICARE population could have a positive impact on their overall health care and reduce Department of Defense (DOD) spending on prescription drugs. The potential cost savings are significant considering that DOD spent approximately \$8 billion on prescription drugs in 2011 – a 400 percent increase over the previous decade. Medication therapy management services have proven successful in civilian settings. Because TRICARE is one of the largest health systems in the country, the potential value to DOD is tremendous.

For these reasons, I hope you will consider adding the enclosed bill language to the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act

Title VII. Health Care Provisions

Subtitle A -- TRICARE and Other Health Benefits

Draft Bill Language

Sec. __. Pilot Program on Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management Services.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM-

(1) IN GENERAL- From within available funds for operation and maintenance, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a pilot program to provide Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management services to a pool of up to 10,000 TRICARE beneficiaries in one or more prescribed geographic areas.

(2) COMMENCEMENT- The Secretary shall commence the pilot program under paragraph (1) by not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DURATION- The Secretary may not carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) (1) for longer than a 48-month period from the date of the pilot's initiation.

(c) PILOT REQUIREMENTS – The Secretary shall select competitively one or more appropriate entities to conduct this pilot and shall include as eligible Academic Health Centers which have a School of Pharmacy, but must guarantee in any selection that the entity has the necessary experience in the provision and management of comprehensive medication therapy management to lead the pilot program under subsection (a)(1). The pilot program shall include the following partners:

(1) At least three Military Treatment Pharmacies located on bases in the same metropolitan geographic area.

(2) At least two pharmacy chain stores who participate in TRICARE.

(3) Local community pharmacies who participate in TRICARE.

(4) Department of Defense Pharmacoeconomic Center.

(d) SERVICES PROVIDED – The Secretary shall require that the Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management pilot program under subsection (a) (1) provide the following services to each enrolled member:

(1) A comprehensive, updated medication list and an individualized medication action plan;

(2) An updated medication action plan at least once per year; and

(3) Comprehensive on-going management of the beneficiaries' medication and medical conditions which includes face to face interaction with a pharmacist to regularly solve potential and actual drug related problems.

(e) TARGETED BENEFICIARIES – The Secretary shall ensure that TRICARE identify as candidates for these services beneficiaries who meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) Receive multiple medications or have multiple medication prescribers;
- (2) Have recently changed medication regimens;
- (3) Have experienced an acute event such as a hospitalization or emergency room visit;
- (4) Have difficulty adhering to their medication regimen; or
- 5) Have one or more chronic conditions requiring medication management

(f) LOCATIONS- The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a)(1) at not less than two military installations of different military departments, including at least one facility in the National Capitol region that meets the following criteria:

- (1) Contains a military medical treatment facility that has inpatient and outpatient capabilities at the installation and an on-base Pharmacy.
- (2) Provides medical treatment to a range of active duty and retired military personnel and their families.

(g) REPORT- Not later than 180 days after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) (1) concludes, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program. The report shall include the following:

- (1) An assessment of the average cost and overall health care savings of providing Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management services to TRICARE beneficiaries in the pilot program.
- (2) An assessment of the level of improvement in clinical outcomes from the beneficiaries who received Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management services versus a control group of similar beneficiaries who did not received these services.
- (3) A post-implementation analysis which evaluates the feasibility of further expansion of the program.

(h) DEFINITIONS- In this section:

- (1) The term 'TRICARE program' has the meaning given that term in section 1072(7) of title 10, United States Code.