

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES**

PERSONNEL POLICY MEMORANDUM



**PPM 12-001
EFFECTIVE DATE: 5 December 2011**

By Order of the Assistant Secretary for Health:

Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.

TO: All Corps Officers on Extended Active Duty

SUBJECT: Transfer Post 9/11 Education Benefits

1. The Post-9/11 GI Bill sign June 30, 2008, authorized, among other benefits, certain members of the armed forces to transfer educational benefit to dependents.
2. On January 4, 2011, the President signed the Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 which amended the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Section 110 of the Act replaced "armed forces" with "uniformed services." This authorizes officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) to transfer unused Post 9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to dependents effective August 1, 2011. The Corps may exercise this authority to improve recruitment and retention when authorized by the Secretary of the Department of Defense (DoD) as being in the national security interest of the United States.
3. In a memorandum signed on June 24, 2011, the DoD authorized the Corps to permit officers to transfer unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits in accordance with DoD policies and procedures.
4. This Personnel Policy Memorandum (PPM) permits eligible members of the Corps to transfer unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to family members in accordance with DoD policies and procedures, see attached Appendix.
5. The Surgeon General may issue a Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) consistent with or more restrictive than the DoD Instruction.
6. This PPM will remain in effect until rescinded.

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Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health

Appendix

Transfer of Unused Education Benefits to Family Members. To promote recruitment and retention, Surgeon General or his/her designee of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) may permit an individual eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance to elect to transfer to one or more of his or her family members all or a portion of his or her entitlement to such assistance. Such authorization must be consistent with the following guidelines.

- a. Eligible Individuals.** Any member of the Corps on or after August 1, 2009, who is entitled to the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the time of the approval of his or her request to transfer that entitlement under this section, may transfer that entitlement provided he or she meets one of these conditions:
 - (1) Has at least 6 years of service in the Corps on the date of approval and agrees to serve 4 additional years in the Corps from the date of election.
 - (2) Has at least 10 years of service in the Corps (active duty) on the date of election, is precluded by either standard policy or statute from committing to 4 additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.
 - (3) Is or becomes retirement eligible during the period from August 1, 2009, through August 1, 2012, and agrees to serve the additional period, as listed below. An officer is considered to be retirement eligible if he or she has completed 20 years of active Federal service or 20 qualifying years. This subparagraph will no longer be in effect on August 1, 2013, and on or after that date all members must comply with subparagraphs a.(1) or a.(2) of this appendix to be eligible for transfer of unused education benefits to family members.
 - (a) For individuals eligible for retirement on August 1, 2009, no additional service is required.
 - (b) For individuals eligible for retirement after August 1, 2009, and before August 1, 2010, 1 year of additional service is required.
 - (c) For individuals eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2010, and before August 1, 2011, 2 years of additional service is required.
 - (d) For individuals eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2011, and before August 1, 2012, 3 years of additional service is required.
- b. Eligible Family Members**
 - (1) An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer that entitlement to his or her spouse, to one or more of his or her children, or to a combination of his or her spouse and one or more children.
 - (2) Confirmation of family members will be made using the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS).
 - (3) Once an individual has designated a child as a transferee, a child's subsequent marriage will not affect his or her eligibility to receive the educational benefit; however, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.
 - (4) Once an individual has designated a spouse as a transferee, subsequent divorce will not affect the transferee's eligibility to receive educational benefits; however, the eligible individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

c. Months of Transfer. Months transferred must be whole months. The number of months of benefits transferred by an individual under this section may not exceed the lesser of:

- (1) The months of Post-9/11 GI Bill unused benefits available.
- (2) 36 months.

d. Transferee Usage.

- (1) Policies and procedures for family member use of Post-9/11 GI Bill transferred educational benefits are the responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Those policies and procedures are presented and updated at www.gibill.va.gov.
- (2) Commencement of use by a family member is subject to these conditions:
 - (a) A spouse may start to use the benefit only after the individual making the transfer has completed at least 6 years of service in the Corps.
 - (b) A child may start to use the benefit after the individual making the transfer:
 1. Has completed at least 10 years of service in the Corps, or
 2. If the individual making the transfer is separated for one of the reasons referred to in subparagraphs g.(2)(b) or g.(2)(c).
 - (c) A child may use the benefit while the eligible individual remains in the Corps or after separation from active duty after completing the additional service required to make the transfer as stipulated in paragraph a. "Eligible Individuals" of this appendix.
 - (d) A child may not use the benefit until he or she has attained a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate), or reached 18 years of age.
 - (e) A child is not subject to the time limitation in paragraph d. of this appendix, but may not use the benefit after reaching 26 years of age.

e. Designation of Transferee. An individual transferring an entitlement to educational assistance under this section shall, through notification to the Surgeon General of the Corps:

- (1) Designate the family member or members to whom such entitlement is being transferred.
- (2) Designate the number of months of such entitlement to be transferred to each family member.
- (3) Specify the start date for which the transfer shall be effective for each family member.

f. Time for Transfer, Revocation, and Modification

- (1) Time for Transfer. An individual approved to transfer entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer such entitlement to the individual's family member only while serving as a member of the Corps. An individual may not add family members after retirement or separation from the Uniformed Services.
 - (2) Modification or Revocation
 - (a) An individual transferring entitlement in accordance with this section may modify or revoke at any time the transfer of any unused portion of the entitlement so transferred.
 1. An individual may add new family members, modify the number of months of the

transferred entitlement for existing family members, or revoke transfer of entitlement while serving in the Corps.

2. An individual may not add dependents after retirement or separation from the Corps, but may modify the number of months of the transferred benefit or revoke transferred of entitlement benefits after retirement or separation for those family members who have received transferred benefits prior to separation or retirement.
- (b) The modification or revocation of the transfer of entitlement under this paragraph shall be made by submitting notice of the action to both the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Additions, modifications, or revocations made while in the Corps will be made through the Transferability of Educational Benefits (TEB) Web Site as described in paragraph h. "Procedures." Modifications or revocations after separation from the Corps will be accomplished through the Department of Veterans Administration (DVA).

g. Failure to Complete Service Agreement

- (1) Except as provided in this section, if an individual transferring entitlement under this section fails to complete the service agreed to by the individual under paragraph a. "Eligible Individuals" of this appendix in accordance with the terms of the agreement, the amount of any transferred entitlement that is used as of the date of such failure shall be treated as an overpayment of educational assistance (see paragraph g.(4) of this appendix) and shall be subject to collection by the DVA.
 - (2) Paragraph g.(1) of this appendix shall not apply to an individual who fails to complete service agreement due to:
 - (a) His or her death.
 - (b) Release from active duty for a medical condition which pre-existed the service of the individual and was not service connected.
 - (c) Release from active duty for hardship as determined by the Surgeon General.
 - (d) Release from active duty for a physical or mental condition, not a disability, that did not result from the individual's own willful misconduct, but did interfere with the performance of duty.
 - (3) The transferor is also considered to have completed his or her service agreement as a result of being discharged for a disability or a reduction in force or force shaping.
 - (4) The Corps may promulgate guidance on the disposition of the Corps service obligation agreed to consistent with paragraph a. "Eligible Individuals" of this enclosure if the individual revokes all transfers and no benefits have been used.
- h. Procedures.** All requests and transactions for individuals who remain in the Uniformed Services will be completed through the Transfer of Educational Benefits (TEB) Web application at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>. The TEB Users Manual will provide instruction for enrollment; verification; and additions, changes, and revocations. Modifications or revocations after separation from the Uniformed Services will be accomplished with the DVA.