



Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board Fertility Treatment and Deployments in the USPHS Commissioned Corps

Medical Waivers for Fertility Treatment

The Medical Waiver Program within the Medical Affairs Branch (MAB) includes personal exemptions from deployment and/or completing some readiness requirements. The following instructions are meant to serve as a supplement to the [Medical Waiver Program website](#) outlining the process for applying for a waiver due to fertility treatment. Types of fertility treatments vary and can include medication, surgery, intrauterine insemination, or assisted reproductive technology (e.g., in-vitro fertilization [IVF]) ([CDC, 2021](#)).

TRICARE does not cover the cost of some fertility treatments, and officers may be financially responsible for these costs.¹ Deployment waivers granted for fertility treatment do not affect TRICARE coverage or provide financial support for treatment through TRICARE.

Fertility Treatment Waiver Process for Deployments

To best support the health of officers receiving treatment for the medical diagnosis of infertility, a time-limited medical waiver can be requested through the following steps:

1. Officer provides medical documentation of diagnosis and treatment plan from the treating healthcare provider in accordance with the [established medical waiver process](#).
2. Following review of documentation and treatment plan, MAB will provide an initial time limited deployment waiver to officers (and their partners as applicable²) undergoing fertility treatment, which would allow officers an average of 8.5-month exemption from deployment. The length of the deployment waiver depends on the specific situation and medical documentation. During times of a public health emergency when officers are always on-call for deployment, time-limited waivers may not be possible.
3. If additional time is required for treatment, the officer submits a request for a new medical waiver with accompanying medical documentation and treatment plan from the treating provider. MAB will review these requests on a case-by-case basis.
4. If officers with an approved fertility treatment waiver are rostered or called to deploy, officers should immediately contact MAB for support (MACCHQ@hhs.gov).

¹Tricare may provide limited coverage for certain fertility treatments. Please refer to the following link for more information: <https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/AssistedReproductiveServices>
<https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/InfertilityTreatment>

²If the Active-Duty officer's partner is undergoing fertility treatment and the medical provider documents that the officer is required for the procedure/treatment then the waiver can be requested.