



TRICARE Coverage for Minnesota Newborns

TriWest Healthcare Alliance administers the TRICARE program in Minnesota, ensuring access to medical care for U.S. servicemen and women, their families and retirees. This includes care for mothers and newborns.

TriWest requires a hospital inpatient admission of at least 48 hours duration. This allows healthcare professionals to carefully assess both the mother and baby before their discharge from the hospital.

According to the Code of Federal Regulations [32CFR 199.1 (10)(C)(v)(d)] which directs TRICARE program policy, state healthcare laws generally are not applicable to TRICARE. While Minnesota state law requires health plans to pay for a home nursing visit when the hospital admission for an uncomplicated delivery is less than 48 hours, TRICARE is a federal benefit program and as such, is not held to this requirement.

If the mother and baby do not remain in the hospital for 48 hours, TriWest will not approve requests for these routine home visits. This is because neither the mother nor the newborn is considered homebound. Under TRICARE, this is not a covered benefit. If for some reason the mother and child were considered homebound, medical necessity determination would be needed for TRICARE benefits to be authorized.