



Things to Think About!

What is the Value of a USIP Card

By Linda Jorgensen

Every week we receive a lot of questions via email. The most common question from military families seems to be, “What is the value of a USIP card”?

A lot of folks aren't even aware what a USIP card is. USIP stands for Uniformed Services Identification and Privileges card. Or, in basic layman's terms, it's a military ID card. The value of the USIP/ID card is required for applications to prove Secondary Dependency for disabled dependents (disabled child over age 18, disabled spouse, disabled parent living with you) being claimed by the military member.

What is Considered as USIP Value?

According to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) the value of a USIP card is, “... the benefit your dependent realizes from having the USIP/ID card”. Basically it is the amount of medical/dental services your dependent is able to receive by using their ID card. This includes the value/cost of the following:

1. ALL Tricare benefits and services.
2. Treatment and services received at a Military Medical Facility.
3. Decreased medication costs of medications purchased from your local pharmacy.

These are the main items that comprise the “Value of the USIP card”.

To figure out what the exact value of YOUR dependent's card is you must gather the following information. *If this information is being used to show proof of value for a secondary determination request form (From DD 137-5) you will need hard copies of the previous 12 months benefits and services as supporting documentation to submit with an application form. These documents will be part of your application packet.*

1. Tricare Services~ Explanation of Benefit (EOB) forms. This form is generated every time a Tricare medical provider is used and an amount is paid out for care. Keep ALL EOBs on file!
2. Medical visits made to a Military Medical Facility~ you will need to request a Medical Cost Estimate from the facility's Patient Administration Office. This document will show the dollar value of treatment and care received through the military care facility. If you received care from more than one facility you may need to get this form from each facility used.
3. Decreased Medication Costs~ these are the “allowed” amounts versus the “billed amounts” for medications. You'll need either a Tricare EOB or a statement from your pharmacy. If you need a statement from your pharmacy simply ask your pharmacist for the last 12 months of medication expenses.

Adding It Up

Once you have all 3 sets of applicable forms you can add the total amounts together and this becomes the value of your USIP card.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Tricare EOBs} \\ & \text{Medical Cost Estimate} \\ & + \text{Decreased Medication Costs} \\ & = \text{Value of the USIP for the previous 12 months} \end{aligned}$$

Be sure to make a secondary copy of each form you will be submitting for your own personal records. If a form becomes lost or you're asked for an explanation you'll have a copy on hand to make another copy for replacement or to refer to for information.

Don't forget, if it isn't on paper it didn't happen!

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