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TRICARE Management Activity Makes Key Decisions on U.S. Regional Health Care Support Contracts

May 05, 2010

TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) announced today its intent to enter into a contract with Health Net Federal Services, LLC, Rancho Cordova, Calif., as the TRICARE Managed Care Support (MCS) contractor for the TRICARE North Region. Health Net is also the current contractor for the TRICARE North Region.

The total potential contract value including the base period and five one-year option periods for health care delivery is estimated at approximately \$17 billion.

A contract for the North Region, awarded to Aetna Government Health Plans, Hartford, Conn., has been terminated as of May 5, 2010, for the convenience of the government. The termination is consistent with a Government Accountability Office (GAO) sustainment of a formal protest filed by Health Net immediately following the July, 2009, award to Aetna.

The award to Aetna Government Health Plans was one of three United States regional support contracts awarded in July, 2009.

Transition to the three new regional contracts in the United States, known as "T-3," was initially slated for completion April 1, 2010. Protests filed with TMA and the GAO put transition activities on hold in all three regions. In late October and early November of 2009, the GAO sustained the protests by Health Net and the current South Region contractor, Humana Military Healthcare Services, and recommended reevaluation of proposals for both the North and South Region.

After careful consideration and consistent with GAO recommendations, TMA is also issuing an amended Request for Proposals (RFP) for the TRICARE South Region. UnitedHealth Military & Veterans Services was awarded the T-3 contract in July 2009. The original bidders will have the opportunity to respond.

An agency-level protest regarding the West Region award to TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. is still pending.

"We value all those who help us deliver health care and appreciate all the time and effort put into proposals for the T-3 contracts," said Dr. Charles L. Rice, acting director of TMA, also performing the duties of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Our top priority is our beneficiaries and we want to reassure them that contract extensions are in place through March 31, 2011, and they will continue to receive high-quality care and customer service."

TMA administers the health care plan for more than 9.6 million members of the uniformed services, retirees and their families worldwide. Regional support contractors provide health, medical and administrative support services while ensuring beneficiary satisfaction at the highest level possible through the delivery of outstanding health care.

For additional information and updates on the T-3 contracts go to www.tricare.mil/t3contracts.