



Reproductive Health Care

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UNCLASSIFIED

Health Affairs

Purpose

- Provide an overview of the Department's reproductive health initiatives
- Post-*Dobbs* decision initiatives
- Key resources available to all Service members and their beneficiaries

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Women's Reproductive Health Survey

- First survey in thirty years targeted towards Active Duty Service women
- Provides insight into experiences, needs, and preferences on contraceptive choices and access.
- Highest response rate of recent surveys
- Key findings:
 - The majority of Active Duty Service women were able to obtain appointments for contraceptive care within established TRICARE wait times requirements AND received contraceptive method of choice.
 - Less than 25% reported receiving contraceptive counseling
 - Counseling is voluntary
 - Survey assessed pre-deployment counseling only
 - More than a third reported feeling more comfortable getting care from a non-MHS provider

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Survey Follow-up Actions

- Health care provider survey
 - ✓ Identify knowledge and understanding of contraceptive health policies and procedures
 - ✓ Assess provider needs and potential policy improvements
- Standardization of walk-in contraception services
 - ✓ MTFs by January 2023
 - ✓ Full scope of non-surgical methods of contraception, same-day without an appointment or referral

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Dobbs Decision Impacts

“DoD health care providers’ current provision of abortion services in cases of rape and incest or where the life of the woman would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, as well as their provision of contraceptive care, and other reproductive health services, continues to be legal and authorized under Federal law, and it remains DoD policy to provide such services”

USD(P&R) Memorandum “Continued Authority to Provide Abortion, Contraception and Other Reproductive Health Services in Department of Defense Military Medical Treatment Facilities”, June 28, 2022

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Potential Impacts to the Department

- **Approximately 40% of Active Duty Service women will have no or severely restricted access to abortion services where they are currently stationed across the U.S.**
- **Between roughly 6,600-11,900 unintended pregnancies occur annually among Active Duty Service members**
 - ✓ **Approximately 4,400-4,700 occur in states with restricted state laws**
 - ✓ **Potential increase in prenatal, delivery and postpartum care**
- **63% of those who experienced an unintended pregnancy were not using any form of contraception**

Hunter, K.M, et. Al, “How the Dobbs Decision Could Affect U.S. National Security”, September 2022

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Departmental Actions

- Issued a memo to the Force indicating that the *Dobbs* decision does not impact Military Medical Treatment Facility authorized care.
- Removal of copays for medical appointments associated with contraceptive care
- Initiated comprehensive contraception campaign
 - ✓ Increases Service member and beneficiary awareness of resources for informed decision-making
 - ✓ Supported by Reproductive Health survey
- Secretary of Defense (SecDef) memorandum on ensuring access to reproductive health care, October 2022
- Family planning focus groups
- Reproductive Health Q&As

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SecDef Memorandum

- Establishes additional privacy protections for reproductive health information
 - ✓ Allows Service member delay of command pregnancy notification to no later than 20 weeks
 - ✓ Disseminate guidance to health care providers and commanders
- Requires development of health care provider protections
 - ✓ Licensure fee reimbursement for change of state licenses
 - ✓ Support to providers subject to adverse actions when performing their official duties, consistent with federal law

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SecDef Memorandum Continued

- **Support for Service members and their beneficiaries in accessing non-covered reproductive health care:**
 - ✓ **Administrative absence (Service members only) and funded travel for non-covered abortions and Assisted Reproductive Technology**
 - ✓ **Non-covered abortions are those not authorized by Federal law for performance by DoD health care providers**
 - ✓ **Assisted Reproductive Technology, facilitates family building through non-coital methods**

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SecDef Memo Continued

- **Supports MHS comprehensive contraceptive education campaign**
- **Expands public facing educational information and resources**
- **Requires improvements to TRICARE and MHS websites to clarify available care and easy-to-find resources to request assistance**
- **Policy will be published by the end of December 2022**

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Way Ahead

- **Continued roll out of comprehensive contraception campaign**
 - ✓ Updates to TRICARE and MHS websites
 - ✓ Promotion of mobile applications Decide+Be Ready, Deployment Readiness Education for Service Members (DRES)
 - ✓ Communication regarding removal of copays and walk-in contraception services
- **Reproductive Health DoD Instruction**

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Back-up Slides


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Your Health is Our Mission!


Explore the comprehensive women's health services available to you in the Military Health System at every stage of your life. Our services include:




Well Woman Exams & Screenings



Pregnancy & Reproductive Health



Comprehensive TRICARE Coverage



Pain Management




Mental Health Services



Sexual Trauma



TRICARE Contraceptive Care



Reproductive Health

We also offer many specialty care services for all your health care needs.

[See All Covered Services](#)
[View Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Women's Health

The Military Health System provides comprehensive women's and gender-specific care associated with cardiovascular health, mental health, musculoskeletal injuries and reproductive health care. Our goal is to ensure the health of all women at every stage of life.

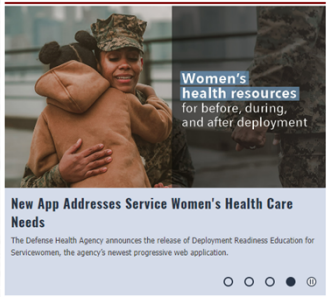
What's New?

Contraceptive Care Questions & Answers Published

TRICARE covers a full range of contraceptive methods, regardless of which health plan you have. And recent changes to TRICARE policies help make sure you'll have easy, convenient, and timely access to contraceptive services. [Read the Q&A](#)

DHA-Administrative Instruction 6025.09 Published

This administrative instruction establishes the DHA's procedures for implementation of walk-in contraception services at all military medical treatment facilities. [Read the DHA AI](#)



Women's health resources for before, during, and after deployment

New App Addresses Service Women's Health Care Needs

The Defense Health Agency announces the release of Deployment Readiness Education for Servicewomen, the agency's newest progressive web application.

Get the Care You Need

- [See What TRICARE Covers](#)
- [TRICARE Contraception Considera](#)
- [Find a Military Hospital or Clinic](#)

Reproductive Health



Need Help Accessing Reproductive Health or Contraceptive Care?

[Contact us](#) and tell us about your challenge. Please allow 3-5 business days for a response.

Related Links

- [Army Women's Health Portal](#)
- [CDC Women's Health Resources](#)
- [CDC Reproductive Health](#)
- [Getting TRICARE for Your Baby](#)
- [Immunization Information](#)
- [Memo: Ensuring Access to Essential Women's Health Care Services](#)
- [Navy & Marine Corps Public Health Center](#)
- [Perinatology Care](#)
- [ReproductiveRights.org](#)
- [Veterans Women's Health Care](#)
- [Well Woman Exams](#)
- [WomensHealth.org](#)

Women's Health Webpage

<https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Total-Force-Fitness/Preventive-Health/Womens-Health>

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MHS Home > Military Health Topics > Total Force Fitness > Medical and Dental Preventive Care Fitness > Women's Health > Reproductive Health Q&A [Need larger text?](#)

Total Force Fitness

Physical Fitness

Environmental Fitness

Medical and Dental Preventive Care Fitness

Men's Health

Women's Health

Contraceptive Care Q&A

▶ Reproductive Health Q&A

Postpartum Hemorrhage

Children's Health

Injury Prevention

Heart Health

Immunizations

Tobacco-Free Living

◊ Vision and Hearing Loss Prevention

Nutritional Fitness

Spiritual Fitness

Psychological Fitness

Social Fitness

Financial Fitness

Reproductive Health Questions & Answers

Many members of the Department of Defense community have asked about essential women's health care services following the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. As Secretary Austin has made clear, the health and well-being of our Service members, the civilian workforce, and DOD families are top priorities for the Department.

Download a PDF Version of the Reproductive Health Q&A

Memorandum Issued on June 28, 2022

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued a memorandum on June 28, 2022, to address "Ensuring Access to Essential Women's Health Care Services for Service Members, Dependents, Beneficiaries, and Department of Defense Civilians."

[Read More](#) ◊

Frequently Asked Questions

Medical Care

Q1: [When does the DOD provide abortion services? Who can receive those services?](#) ◊

Q2: [If a Service Member, dependent, or beneficiary accesses abortion services outside of the military health care system and requires follow-up care can they access care through DOD?](#) ◊

Q3: [What kinds of abortions can the Military Health System perform?](#) ◊

Q4: [What other care does DOD provide when a Service member dependent or other beneficiary receives a covered abortion?](#) ◊

Need Help Accessing Reproductive Health or Contraceptive Care?

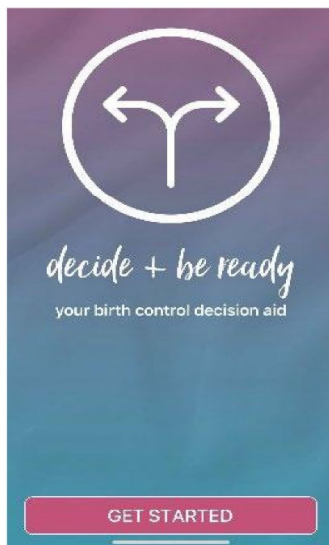
[Contact us](#) and tell us about your challenge. Please allow 3-5 business days for a response.

Reproductive Health Questions & Answers, Contact Information for Assistance:

<https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Total-Force-Fitness/Preventive-Health/Womens-Health/Reproductive-Health-QA>

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As you consider your birth control options... Decide + Be Ready Mobile App



Easy Download Options:

- Search Decide + Be Ready in App Store for iOS Version
- Search Decide + Be Ready in Google Play for Android Version
- Follow the link:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/decide-be-ready/id1451879300>



Scan this Quick
Response Code to
Download from
App Store

Deployment Readiness Education for Service Women (DRES) Application



- TriService product built on the Navy framework with the goal to equip service women with the knowledge they need to effectively understand their bodies, use preventative practices, identify symptoms of concern, and optimize readiness.
- The DRES content was written by Military Medical providers across the Military Health System to provide easily accessible, comprehensive, and unbiased health education to service women across the force.
- The app can be downloaded at <https://mobile.health.mil/Dres>

Deployment Readiness Education for Service Women (DRES) Application

