



DEFENSE
HEALTH AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS

7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

JAN 04 2016

Reid B. Blackwelder, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair
American Academy of Family Physicians
1133 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036-4305

Dear Dr. Blackwelder:

Thank you for your letter of September 16, 2015, Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. As the Chief of Pharmacy Operations, Dr. Woodson referred your letter to me for response.

In your letter, you requested the Department of Defense (DoD) to consider insulin pens to have the same formulary tier status as insulin vials. We appreciate input from the American Academy of Family Physicians and will consider it when we review insulin products in the coming year.

The DoD covers all Food and Drug Administration approved legend medications, and insulin products, with the exception of some medications for conditions prohibited by law, such as those prescribed for weight loss or cosmetic purposes. Currently all insulin vials and pens are on tier 2 of the DoD Uniform Formulary, except the detemir (Levemir®) pen. Medical necessity criteria, which specifically reference the visual limitations and manual dexterity concerns mentioned in your letter, allow for a patient's copay to be reduced from tier 3 to tier 2 with clinical documentation.

Thank you for your interest in the Military Health System and its beneficiaries. We at the Defense Health Agency are proud to serve our Nation's military heroes and their families. It is our commitment to provide the best possible health care service.

Sincerely,

George E. Jones, Jr., PharmD, MS
Chief, Pharmacy Operations Division