

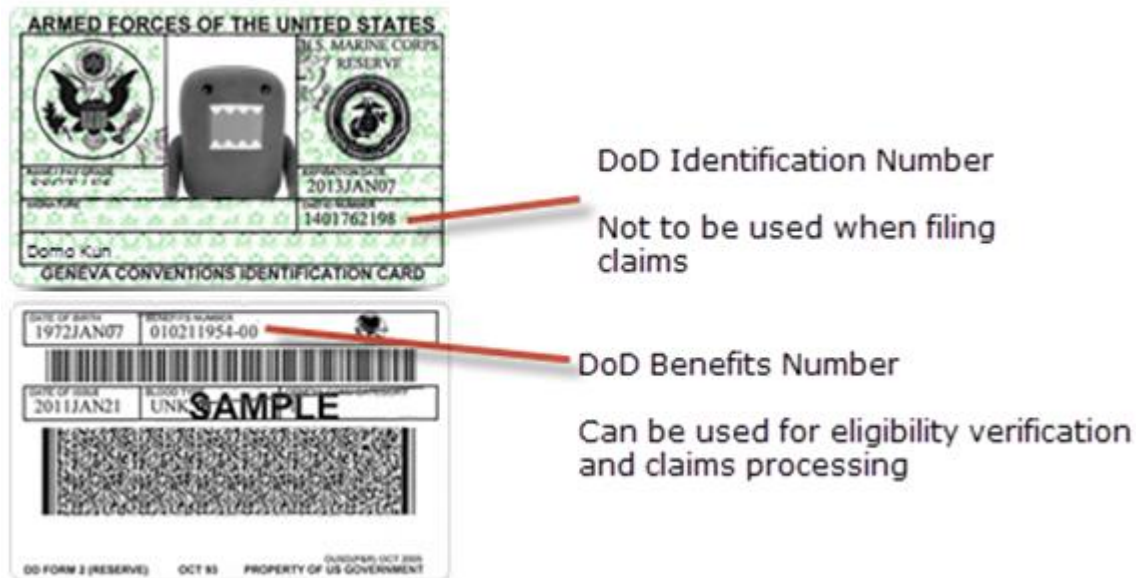
## TRICARE Catastrophic Cap question

**Q:** If an active-duty family member reaches the catastrophic cap and her sponsor retires in the same fiscal year, does the \$1,000 get applied to the retiree cap of \$3,000?

**A:** When the sponsor's status changes, the full deductible and cost-shares credited towards the previous family cap is credited to the new cap in the same fiscal year. Information is available in the 2008 "TRICARE Reimbursement Manual" Chapter 2, Section 2.

**Social Security Disability Insurance and TRICARE:** TRICARE beneficiaries awarded Social Security Disability Insurance on appeal aren't required to buy back Medicare Part B to their Part A effective date. This applies to TRICARE beneficiaries under 65 who are awarded Medicare Part A on appeal, on or after October 1, 2009. These lucky few are eligible for TRICARE coverage during the period they only had Part A. Medicare doesn't recognize Department of Defense Benefits Numbers, so TRICARE For Life beneficiaries may still need to provide their Social Security number when receiving care. Read all about it in the 2008 "TRICARE Reimbursement Manual" Chapter 4, Section 4, Paragraph 1.3.1.7. A mini-briefing is available in the [Source Documents](#) tab of the Customer Service Community website, under "other documents."

**DOD Benefits Numbers and TRICARE Claims Processing:** The Department of Defense Benefits Number is an 11-digit number that can be used for claims submissions and eligibility verification. Beneficiaries are also assigned a 10-digit DOD identification number, which shouldn't be used by providers or beneficiaries when submitting claims. It has come to our attention that providers are submitting DOD ID numbers and the claims are coming back as rejected. Please look at the Uniformed Services ID card below:



**West Transition, It's Here:** No April Fool's hijinks here, UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans began administration of the west region contract on April 1, 2013! Beneficiaries can visit [www.uhcmilitarywest.com](http://www.uhcmilitarywest.com) or call (877) 988-9378 for assistance with claims, enrollment, or benefit issues.

**TRICARE Fundamentals Online Certification Course:** For those new to TRICARE or those looking to brush up on their benefits, a new version of the TRICARE Fundamentals Online Certification Course is available. Please visit [www.tricare.mil/tricareu/CertificationCourses.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/tricareu/CertificationCourses.aspx) to register and get started!