

CHAPTER 8 SECTION 18.2

RARE DISEASES

Issue Date: May 18, 1994

Authority: [32 CFR 199.2\(b\)](#) and [32 CFR 199.4\(g\)\(15\)](#)

I. DESCRIPTION

TRICARE defines a rare disease as one which affects fewer than one in 200,000 Americans.

II. POLICY

A. Uncovered benefits for rare diseases maybe considered on a case-by-case basis by the TRICARE Medical Director.

B. Cases to be considered under the rare disease policy should be referred to the TRICARE Medical Director, TRICARE Management Activity, Office of Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, 16401 E. Centretch Parkway, Aurora, Colorado 80011-9043. Include with the request documentation regarding the condition of the patient, procedure to be performed and medical literature to support the treatment.

C. In reviewing the case, the TRICARE Medical Director may consult with any or all of the following sources to determine if the proposed benefit is considered safe and effective.

1. Trials published in refereed medical literature.
2. Formal technology assessments.
3. National medical policy organization positions.
4. National professional associations.
5. National expert opinion organizations.

D. If case review indicates that the proposed benefit for a rare disease is safe and effective for that disease, TMA adopts the requested benefit. If the TRICARE Medical Director denies benefits, an appropriate appealing party may request an appeal to the Office of Appeals and Hearings.

- END -

