



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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TRICARE  
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

**MB&RB**

**CHANGE 163  
6010.54-M  
AUGUST 10, 2012**

**PUBLICATIONS SYSTEM CHANGE TRANSMITTAL  
FOR  
TRICARE POLICY MANUAL (TPM), AUGUST 2002**

The TRICARE Management Activity has authorized the following addition(s)/revision(s).

**CHANGE TITLE: COVERAGE OF APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS (ABA) UNDER THE TRICARE BASIC PROGRAM**

**CONREQ: 16171**

**PAGE CHANGE(S): See page 2.**

**SUMMARY OF CHANGE(S): This change allows coverage for ABA services for any TRICARE beneficiary, including retirees and their dependent family members with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).**

Through U.S. District Court order, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) has been ordered to cover ABA therapy under the TRICARE Basic Program. This is an interim benefit in effect until litigation is complete.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: March 5, 2010.**

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon direction of the Contracting Officer.**

  
**Ann N. Fazzini**  
**Chief, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Branch**

**ATTACHMENT(S): 8 PAGE(S)  
DISTRIBUTION: 6010.54-M**

**CHANGE 163**  
**6010.54-M**  
**AUGUST 10, 2012**

**REMOVE PAGE(S)**

**CHAPTER 7**

Table of Contents, pages i - iii

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**INDEX**

pages 1 and 2

**INSERT PAGE(S)**

Table of Contents, pages i - iii

Section 3.18, pages 1 - 3

pages 1 and 2

## MEDICINE

SECTION	SUBJECT
1.1	Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilias and Gender Identity Disorders
2.1	Clinical Preventive Services - TRICARE Standard
2.2	Clinical Preventive Services - TRICARE Prime
2.3	Family Planning
2.4	Papanicolaou (PAP) Tests
2.5	Well-Child Care
2.6	Routine Physical Examinations
2.7	Chelation Therapy
2.8	Hydration, Therapeutic, Prophylactic, And Diagnostic Injections And Infusions
3.1	Limit On Acute Inpatient Mental Health Care
3.2	Limit On Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Care
3.3	Preauthorization Requirements For Acute Hospital Psychiatric Care
3.4	Preauthorization Requirements For Residential Treatment Center Care
3.5	Preauthorization Requirements For Substance Use Disorder Detoxification And Rehabilitation
3.6	Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Programs - Preauthorization And Day Limits
3.7	Substance Use Disorders
3.8	Learning Disorders
3.9	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
3.10	Treatment Of Mental Disorders
3.11	Ancillary Inpatient Mental Health Services
3.12	Psychological Testing
3.13	Psychotherapy
3.14	Family Therapy
3.15	Psychotropic Pharmacologic Management
3.16	Collateral Visits
3.17	Eating Disorders

SECTION	SUBJECT
3.18	Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
4.1	Biofeedback
4.2	Dialysis
5.1	Gastroenterology
6.1	Ophthalmological Services
6.2	Lenses (Intraocular Or Contact) And Eye Glasses
6.3	Cardiovascular Therapeutic Services
7.1	Speech Services
8.1	Special Otorhinolaryngologic Services
8.2	Hearing Aids And Hearing Aid Services
9.1	Electronystagmography
10.1	Echocardiogram For Dental And Invasive Procedures
11.1	Cardiac Rehabilitation
12.1	Non-Invasive Vascular Diagnostic Studies
13.1	Pulmonary Services
14.1	Allergy Testing And Treatment
15.1	Neurology And Neuromuscular Services
15.2	Sensory Evoked Potentials (SEP)
16.1	Central Nervous System Assessments/Tests
16.2	Health And Behavior Assessment/Intervention
16.3	Chemotherapy Administration
16.4	Education And Training For Patient Self Management
17.1	Dermatological Procedures - General
18.1	Rehabilitation - General
18.2	Physical Medicine/Therapy
18.3	Occupational Therapy
18.4	Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy
18.5	Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment
19.1	Diagnostic Sleep Studies
20.1	Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
21.1	Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002**  
CHAPTER 7 - MEDICINE

---

SECTION	SUBJECT
22.1	Telemental Health (TMH)/Telemedicine
23.1	Augmentative Communication Devices (ACD)
24.1	Phase I, Phase II, And Phase III Cancer Clinical Trials
25.1	Dermoscopy
26.1	Forensic Examinations Following Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence
27.1	Botulinum Toxin Injections



## APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS (ABA)

ISSUE DATE: August 10, 2012

AUTHORITY: [32 CFR 199.4\(c\)](#) and 10 USC 1079(a)

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### I. CPT<sup>1</sup> PROCEDURE CODES

90887, 99080

### II. HCPCS CODE

S5108

### III. DESCRIPTION

Through U.S. District Court order, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) has been ordered to cover Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy under the TRICARE Basic Program. This is an interim benefit in effect until litigation is complete.

### IV. POLICY

A. TRICARE covers ABA services for all eligible beneficiaries, including retirees and their dependent family members, with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

B. A covered diagnosis of ASD includes Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) and their associated International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) diagnostic code: Autistic Disorder (299.00), Rhetts Disorder (299.80), Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD) (299.10), Asperger's Disorder (299.80), and Pervasive Development Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDDNOS) (including Atypical Autism) (299.80).

C. Payable services include:

1. An initial beneficiary assessment;
2. Development of a treatment plan;
3. One-on-one ABA interventions with an eligible beneficiary, training of immediate family members to provide services in accordance with the treatment plan; and

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**TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002**

CHAPTER 7, SECTION 3.18

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS (ABA)

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4. Monitoring of the beneficiary's progress toward treatment goals.

D. ABA services will be provided only for those beneficiaries with an ASD diagnosis rendered by a TRICARE-authorized Primary Care Provider (PCP) or by a specialized ASD provider defined as:

1. Physician board-certified or board-eligible in behavioral developmental pediatrics, neurodevelopmental pediatrics, pediatric neurology or child psychiatry; or
2. Ph.D. clinical psychologist working primarily with children.

V. REIMBURSEMENT

A. Claims for ABA services will be submitted by an authorized provider on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 1500 (08/05) as follows:

1. Functional Behavioral Assessment and Analysis.

a. The Functional Behavioral Assessment and Analysis and initial treatment plan will be billed using Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code S5108, "Home care training to home care client, per 15 minutes".

b. Reimbursement for the Functional Behavioral Assessment and Analysis includes the intellectual work and diagnostic evaluation required to establish the initial Behavioral Plan (BP).

2. ABA services rendered by an authorized provider, in-person, will be billed using HCPCS code S5108, "Home care training to home care client, per 15 minutes".

3. Development of an updated treatment plan will be billed using Current Procedural Terminology<sup>2</sup> (CPT) procedure code 99080, "Special reports such as insurance forms, more than the information conveyed in the usual medical communications or standard reporting form".

4. Conducting progress meetings will be billed using CPT<sup>2</sup> procedure code 90887, "Interpretation or explanation of results of psychiatric, other medical examinations and procedures, or other accumulated data to family or other responsible person, or advising them how to assist patient".

B. Reimbursement of claims will be the lesser of:

1. The CHAMPUS Maximum Allowable Charge (CMAC); or
2. One hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125) per hour for services provided by the authorized provider; or
3. The negotiated rate; or

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4. The billed charge.

## VI. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Managed Care Support Contractor (MCSC) will also consider and advise beneficiaries of the availability of community-based or funded programs and services when authorizing benefits.

## VII. EXCLUSIONS

- A. ABA services provided in a group format are not a covered service.
- B. Services rendered by an unauthorized TRICARE provider.

## VIII. PROVIDERS

For services provided in conjunction with ABA under the TRICARE Basic benefit, the following are TRICARE-authorized providers when referred by and working under the supervision of those identified in [paragraph IV.D.](#):

- A. Have a current State license to provide ABA services; or
- B. Are currently State-certified as an Applied Behavioral Analyst; or
- C. Where such State license or certification is not available, are certified by the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB) as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA); and
- D. Otherwise meet all applicable requirements of TRICARE-authorized providers.

NOTE: Individuals certified by the BACB as a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) **are not** TRICARE-authorized ABA providers under the TRICARE Basic Program.

## IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

March 5, 2010. Except for services overseas which is March 5, 2008.

- END -



INDEX	CHAPTER	SECTION
<b>A</b>		
Abortions	4	18.3
Accreditation	11	3.3
Adjunctive Dental Care	8	13.1
Aeromedical Evacuation Services	12	10.4
Allergy Testing And Treatment	7	14.1
Ambulance Service	8	1.1
In Overseas Locations For TRICARE Prime-Enrolled Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) And Related Services To Other Beneficiaries	12	10.4
Ambulatory Surgery	11	6.1
Ancillary Inpatient Mental Health Services	7	3.11
Anesthesia	3	1.1
Dental	8	13.2
Anesthesiologist Assistant	11	3.4A
Antepartum Services	4	18.2
Anticoagulant Management	2	8.2
<b>Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.18</b>
Assistant Surgeons	4	4.1
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	7	3.9
Audiology Services	7	8.1
Auditory System	4	22.1
Augmentative Communication Devices (ACD)	7	23.1

INDEX	CHAPTER	SECTION
<b>B</b>		
Biofeedback	7	4.1
Birthing Centers	11	2.3
Accreditation	11	11.1
Certification Process	11	11.2
Bone Density Studies	5	1.1
	5	2.1
	5	4.1
Botulinum Toxin Injections	7	27.1
Brachytherapy	5	3.1
Breast Pumps	8	2.6
Breast Reconstruction As A Result Of A Congenital Anomaly	4	5.6