

AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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I. POLICY

Each TOP **TRICARE Area Office (TAO)** Director may require authorizations. Such authorization requirements may differ between TOP regions. Beneficiaries and providers are responsible for contacting their TOP **TAO** Director or Health Care Finder (**HCF**) for a listing of TOP regional authorization requirements. Unless otherwise specifically excluded in this chapter, the adjudication of the following types of care requires TOP authorization/preauthorization.

A. Overseas Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) benefits must be authorized by the TOP **TAO** Director or designee, prior to receiving the ECHO benefit.

B. TOP non-enrollees do not require pre-authorization/authorization for care except for non-emergent inpatient mental health services (pre-admission and continued stay).

C. TOP **Prime** enrollees (**other than TGRO/TPRC**) are required to obtain authorization for care rendered in the following countries: Belgium, Germany, Guam, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Portugal (Azores), Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom. **Determination of** overseas countries requiring authorization for care will be **made** by the appropriate overseas **TAO** Director or designee.

D. TOP **active duty service member (ADSM) urgent/emergent care received in the continental United States (CONUS)** does not require authorization. **Authorization is required for all non-emergent/urgent care received in CONUS, including non-emergent/urgent inpatient mental health care. TOP ADSM claims for non-emergent/urgent care obtained in CONUS should only be paid when accompanied by the appropriate payment authorization forms (SF1034 or NAVMED6320/10).**

E. TOP enrolled ADFMs are not required to obtain authorization for **CONUS** non-emergent/non-urgent care except for **CONUS** non-emergent/urgent inpatient mental health care.

F. For TOP **Prime active duty service member (ADFM)s** and TOP Standard beneficiaries, **CONUS** non-emergent inpatient mental health pre-authorizations/authorizations will be performed by the mental health review contractor. **Claims for drugs,**

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radiological diagnostics (excluding MRI and PET scans), and ancillary services obtained from OCONUS providers are exempt from the TOP authorization requirements.

G. TRICARE Global Remote Overseas (TGRO) and TRICARE Puerto Rico Contract (TPRC) healthcare contractor claims do not require authorization by the overseas claims processing contractor responsible for processing overseas claims.

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