

## Special Education And Other Educational Services

Issue Date: July 3, 1997

Authority: [32 CFR 199.5\(c\)\(3\)](#) and [\(c\)\(4\)](#)

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### 1.0 CPT<sup>1</sup> PROCEDURE CODES

99199, 99600

### 2.0 POLICY

**2.1** Special education, within the meaning of such term as used in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementing regulations and policies, may be cost-shared subject to all applicable Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) requirements, and in particular, the requirement that other public programs and facilities be used to the extent available and adequate.

**2.2** Identification of appropriate public facilities. The local educational agency with responsibility for the beneficiary is the sole public facility to provide public facility use certification for special education services.

**2.3** Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services are included as a benefit under this issuance in accordance with the Director, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) coverage decision memorandum of October 19, 2010. The "Medical Benefit Determinations-Applied Behavior Analysis for the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders" determined that ABA is no longer considered special education for TRICARE program purposes and concludes that ABA is considered a part of an integrated set of services and supplies designed to assist in the reduction of the disabling effects of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for an ECHO-registered beneficiary with a qualifying condition. Therefore, ABA may be covered under ECHO as an "other service" for those eligible Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) with an ASD diagnosis only when provided by a TRICARE-authorized provider in accordance with the scope of their license or when provided in accordance with the Department of Defense (DoD) Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration. Payable services include periodic evaluation of the beneficiary, development of a treatment plan, and training of immediate family members to provide services in accordance with the treatment plan. TRICARE can also pay for the "hands-on" ABA services when provided by a TRICARE authorized provider. However, TRICARE cannot pay for such services when provided by family members, trainers or other individuals who are not TRICARE-authorized providers (see [Section 17.1](#)) and for children less than three and included in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

**2.4** Services cost-shared through the ECHO may be provided by an authorized institutional or individual professional provider on an inpatient or outpatient basis and rendered in the

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Chapter 9, Section 9.1

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beneficiary's natural environment. This includes at home, at school, or other location that is suitable for the type of services being rendered.

**2.5** See the TRICARE Operations Manual (TOM), [Chapter 18, Section 8](#) for information about the DoD Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration.

**3.0 EXCLUSION**

Special education services are generally unavailable under the TRICARE Basic Program except as authorized under Section 1079(a)(g) of Title 10 United States Code (USC), and when authorized are not eligible to be cost-shared under ECHO.

**4.0 EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2005.

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