

## Claims

Issue Date: July 3, 1997

Authority: [32 CFR 199.5\(g\)](#) and [32 CFR 199.7](#)

Revision:

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### 1.0 POLICY

**1.1** Only Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) authorized benefits may be processed as an ECHO claim. Benefits that are available through the TRICARE Basic Program are not eligible to be cost-shared through the ECHO.

**1.2** Government and beneficiary cost-share liability for ECHO benefits are indicated in [Section 16.1](#).

**1.3** Pricing of ECHO services and items shall be determined in accordance with the TRICARE Reimbursement Manual (TRM).

**1.4** All ECHO claims must have a valid written authorization. The contractor or Director, TRICARE Area Office may waive the requirement for a written authorization for rendered ECHO services/items that, except for the absence of the written authorization, would be allowable as an ECHO benefit.

**1.5** Services or items on an ECHO claim which do not have a corresponding line item on an authorization document shall be denied.

**1.6** Charges for Basic Program benefits and ECHO benefits shall be split as individual line items on ECHO and ECHO Home Health Care (EHHC) claims.

**1.7** The "billed amount" for ECHO procedures or items is the actual billed amount, not the applicable ECHO benefit limits indicated in this chapter.

**1.8** ECHO claims shall be paid the amount authorized, as indicated on the ECHO authorization, or the benefit limit, whichever is lower.

**1.9** The reimbursement rate for the use of a privately-owned vehicle, regardless of the number of ECHO family members being transported, is limited to the Federal Government employee mileage reimbursement rate in effect on the trip date.

### 2.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2005.

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