

Referral Consults to TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)

1). Some children with autism may benefit from Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). The provider must enter a consult into CHCS **AND** provide the family with a hand written prescription for ABA.

- As of December 9, 2010, a consult option has been added in CHCS to disposition ECHO referrals for ABA. All consults for ABA may be entered via **Peds ABA**.
 - Physicians, PA, or NP can enter the consult.
- The script for ABA must clearly indicate that the child has autism or autism spectrum disorder and ABA therapy through ECHO is requested.
 - A prescription for ECHO services is valid for one year. The family continues to receive benefits as long as the authorization is valid.
 - When a beneficiary is receiving other ECHO services, respite may also be requested. A separate consult for respite must be entered. This consult may also be entered using the Peds ABA option.
 - Please note that OT, PT, and Speech Therapy are available under the Basic TRICARE program and thus are not a benefit under ECHO.
- All ABA consults are deferred to the Network--ABA services are not available within the MTF.
- Once evaluated for services, the therapist completing the evaluation of the child requests services directly from HealthNet.

2). Durable Medical Equipment (DME) is available under the Basic TRICARE program. Durable Equipment (DE) is a benefit under ECHO. Enter both DE and DME consults to DME in CHCS.

- All consults for DE and DME are deferred to the network.
- DME with a purchase price greater than \$150 requires a Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN). Fax the CMN to Healthnet's secure fax line at 888-432-7077 and provide a copy to patient with signed script.
- Prior authorization is required for DME with a purchase price \geq \$2,000.00.

3). Home Health Services is a Basic TRICARE benefit. Home Health (Private Duty Nursing) is a benefit under Extended Home Health Care via ECHO. Entered consults for Home Health Nursing in CHCS under Home Health NCMP. Healthnet has an internal system in place to determine if request is to be reviewed as an ECHO benefit.

4). **Enrollment in ECHO is not automatic.** To be eligible for ECHO, the family must be enrolled in the service specific Exceptional Family Member Program.

- After enrolling in EFMP, the family must register for ECHO before requesting ECHO services.
- To register for ECHO, contact the HealthNet ECHO Case Manager at 757.766.4767.
- The family must provide the case manager with a copy of the EFMP application (or verification of enrollment in EFMP), a copy of the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP)/ Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and the prescriptions/scripts.

6). **Please Note:** The ECHO case manager can not authorize ECHO services without a script. A script is required for any ECHO services, including Respite. If the service (s) requested is not covered under the basis benefit and the patient is not enrolled in EFMP and not registered with ECHO, the request will generally be denied. If the service denied is covered under ECHO, HealthNet informs the family to register with ECHO and then re-submit the request.