

WEBINAR: June 24, 2021, 1 p.m. EDT

Autism Care Demonstration Program Changes:
**An Overview of What TRICARE[®]
Beneficiaries Need to Know**

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Summary Description

This webinar will provide an overview of the comprehensive changes to the Autism Care Demonstration program. Learn about changes to the program, including new program improvements for parents and families.

Agenda

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Introduction to ACD Policy Changes

- The Autism Care Demonstration, or ACD, began July 25, 2014.
- ACD is authorized to provide clinically necessary and appropriate applied behavior analysis, or ABA, services for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, or ASD.
- Providers must render the active delivery of ABA services.
- Changes were a collaborative process, including:
 - Stakeholder input
 - Literature and research
 - Commercial and Medicaid coverage plans
 - Available practice recommendations
 - Government oversight

Beneficiary Eligibility for ACD, 1 of 2

- Expanded list of approved autism spectrum disorder diagnosing-provider types.
- No longer need a confirmation diagnosis because the requirement is for a definitive diagnosis.
 - However, it's still recommended that the beneficiary and family see a specialist for a complete diagnostic workup and to review and oversee all recommended services.
- If a child is first diagnosed after age 8, referral must come from a specialized ASD diagnosing provider.

Beneficiary Eligibility for ACD, 2 of 2

- All beneficiaries will align to a chronological two-year referral timeline.
- Outcome measures no longer need a referral or to be completed by the diagnosing provider. It can be completed by a provider who receives authorization.
- Outcome measures must be completed prior to beginning ABA treatment services.
- Extended Care Health Option, or ECHO, timeline:
 - Beneficiaries will still have the 90 days provisional period per the ECHO policy
 - Additional 90-day extension eliminated

ACD Authorizations

- Starting Aug. 1, 2021, all outcome measures must be submitted prior to issuing subsequent authorizations.
- Your provider needs to submit treatment plans for authorizations in a timely manner.
 - Late submissions of treatment plans risk paid services and a gap in care

Autism Services Coordination, 1 of 4

- Starting Oct. 1, 2021, all new beneficiaries to the ACD will be assigned an **autism services navigator**, or ASN. A new beneficiary is defined as follows:
 - Not currently receiving ABA services under the ACD
 - A gap in ABA services of greater than 12 months
- This applies to beneficiaries enrolled in the East Region (Humana Military) or the West Region (Health Net Federal Services).
 - The ASN is employed by or contracted through these two contractors
- Currently enrolled in the ACD and receiving ABA services, but moving from one region to another, won't count as a new beneficiary.
- TRICARE Overseas Program, US Family Health Plan, and TRICARE For Life aren't required to provide an ASN.

Autism Services Coordination, 2 of 4

- The autism services navigator's role is to:
 - Collaborate with all stakeholders for the beneficiary
 - Oversee the assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination and evaluation
 - Serve as the primary advocate in the health care setting for the beneficiary and family
 - Serve as the primary point of contact for the beneficiary and family
- The ASN may be assisted by a nonclinical outreach coordinator.

Autism Services Coordination, 3 of 4

- For the beneficiary and family, the ASN will:
 - Make first contact with the beneficiary and family once a referral to the ACD or ABA services has been placed
 - Develop a Comprehensive Care Plan
 - Coordinate medical and behavioral health services, military hospital or clinic services, Extended Care Health Option services, respite services, ABA services, parent-mediated programs and other similar activities
 - Ensure all services work in collaboration to achieve the optimal outcome
 - Coordinate and participate in medical team conferences
 - Facilitate continuity of care when you move, sponsor retires or a treating provider becomes unavailable
 - Identify and facilitate connections with local community resources
 - Provide educational resources about ASD

Autism Services Coordination, 4 of 4

- The ASN will develop and maintain a Comprehensive Care Plan, or CCP.
- The CCP will:
 - Identify all care and services for each new beneficiary in the Autism Care Demonstration
 - Document outcome measures and timelines
 - Document permanent change of station timelines, where applicable
 - Develop a discharge and transition plan
- The CCP allows for a more consistent and beneficiary-centric approach.
- The CCP is updated every six months in line with the continued authorization of ABA services.

Parent and Family Support

- Starting Oct. 1, 2021, TRICARE regional contractor websites will include additional information for families:
 - Parent toolkit for new ACD families
 - Local area supports and resources
 - Military installation supports and resources
 - Information about clinical and nonclinical services:
 - Mental health services, including telehealth resources
 - Military OneSource, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and other services
 - Parent-mediated services

Outcome Measures

- There are four outcome measures:
 - Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales-3, or Vineland-3, baseline and every year
 - Social Responsiveness Scale, 2nd Edition, or SRS-2, baseline and every year
 - Pervasive Developmental Disorder Behavior Inventory, or PDDBI, baseline and every six months
 - Parenting Stress Index, or PSI, or Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents, or SIPA, baseline and every six months
 - Required as of Aug. 1, 2021
- All outcome measures must be completed prior to issuing ABA treatment authorizations.
- All outcome measures require prior authorization for ABA providers to complete.

Additional Coverage

- Applied behavior analysis group services
- Medical team conference, which allows for more collaboration with treating providers
- Provision to parent training services include:
 - Telehealth services incorporated beyond the pandemic exception to the policy
 - Six sessions of parent training per six-month authorization
- These changes are effective Aug. 1, 2021.

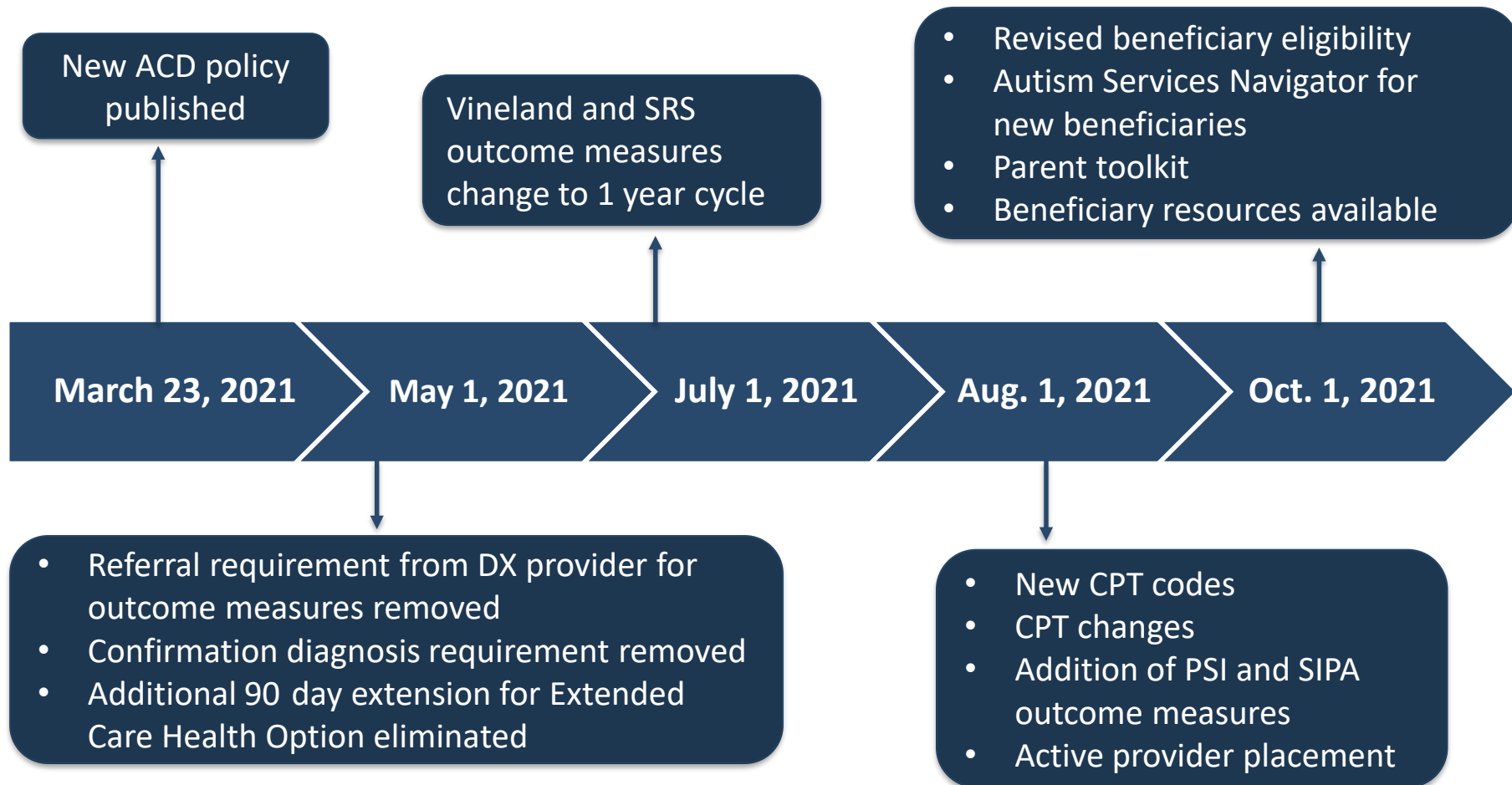
Exclusions

- The following activities are excluded from coverage:
 - Use of restraints
 - Applied behavior analysis in school settings
 - Applied behavior analysis in certain community settings
 - Activities of daily living skills
 - Concurrent billing, for example, billing for two services at the same time

Additional Contractor Responsibilities

- Starting Aug. 1, 2021, there will be an active provider placement process to ensure access to care standards are met.
- Access to care standards include:
 - 28 days to obtain an assessment
 - 28 days to begin treatment
- Military hospital or clinic directed referrals or family requests for a specific provider don't ensure access to care standards.

Phased Implementation Timeline



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- Autism Care Demonstration
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- TRICARE Changes
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- TRICARE News
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- Comprehensive Changes to the Autism Care Demonstration
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- **WEST Region**
Health Net Federal Services LLC
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- **TRICARE Overseas Program**
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Q&A

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