

## Reminder on HIPAA 5010 Implementation

**T**RICARE is taking action to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Versions 5010/D.0 transaction standards. HIPAA requires covered entities in the health care industry to implement and use mandated standards in the electronic transmission of health care transactions, such as claims, remittance advices, eligibility confirmations, claims status requests, their related responses, and privacy and security standards. The Versions 5010/D.0 upgrade will replace the Versions 4010/5.1 transaction standards in order to improve and enhance administrative data exchanges.

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Level II compliance with Version 5010 standards must be achieved by Dec. 31, 2011. Level II compliance means that “a covered entity has completed end-to-end testing with each of its trading partners, and is able to operate in production

mode with the new versions of the standards.” All covered entities must be fully compliant as of Jan. 1, 2012.<sup>1</sup>

For additional information on Versions 5010/D.0 standards, visit [www.cms.gov/Versions5010andD0](http://www.cms.gov/Versions5010andD0). ■

1. [www.cms.gov/Versions5010andD0/10\\_background.asp](http://www.cms.gov/Versions5010andD0/10_background.asp)



## Focus on Childhood Obesity

**O**ver the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in the United States have tripled. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in three U.S. children are overweight or obese, putting them at greater risk for health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer and asthma. Additionally, statistics show that 18.9 percent of adolescents in military families are overweight or obese.<sup>1</sup> Combating obesity and raising awareness about healthy lifestyles continues to be a primary mission for TRICARE.

The start of a new year is a great time to identify and talk to at-risk patients and their parents about steps that can improve their health. As a network provider, you can screen all TRICARE beneficiaries under age 6 for height and weight. After age 6, you can screen TRICARE Prime-enrolled children for height and weight regularly throughout childhood. You can also periodically screen TRICARE

Standard beneficiaries for height and weight when administering routine immunizations or providing other clinical preventive services.

One way to engage your younger patients—and their parents—in healthy eating and active lifestyles is to direct them to helpful Web resources.

The “Get Fit” Web page at [www.tricare.mil/getfit](http://www.tricare.mil/getfit) serves as TRICARE’s main resource for beneficiaries looking for information on childhood obesity. It highlights ongoing efforts to raise awareness of childhood obesity and encourages children to eat right and exercise. The page also features a “kids-only” section that has links to informational websites and games emphasizing good nutrition and fitness.

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## Focus on Childhood Obesity

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Additionally, anybody who is interested in creating a personalized eating schedule and physical activity plan can use the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "MyPyramid" tool at [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov).

Taking an extra minute or two to talk to patients about these important resources is time well spent. Helping patients make healthy eating choices at a young age can bring benefits for a lifetime. ■

1. [www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/obesity](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/obesity)

## Autism Demonstration Project Extended through March 2012

The Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration program has been extended through March 2012. The demonstration project allows non-certified paraprofessional providers (tutors) to provide autism-related services—in particular, applied behavior analysis (ABA)—to Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)-participating active duty family members in the United States.

Tutors are individuals who meet the requirements specified by the *TRICARE Operations Manual*. They are supervised by Behavior Analyst Certification Board-certified therapists. ABA providers who wish to participate in the demonstration must meet the following criteria:

- Be TRICARE-authorized
- Employ or contract with tutors who will be supervised
- Be board-certified behavior analysts or board-certified associate behavior analysts
- Have professional liability insurance
- Undergo criminal history reviews
- Establish participation agreements with Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (Humana Military)

ABA supervisors must certify that the tutors they employ meet TRICARE requirements for education, training, experience and

competency. Additionally, before tutors render services, they must undergo criminal background checks. ABA supervisors will perform patient evaluations and assessments, develop behavior plans and monitor progress.

To be eligible for participation in the demonstration, TRICARE beneficiaries must be:

- An active duty dependent
- Age 18 months or older
- Registered in the ECHO program
- Diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
- Referred for special education services

If you have a patient you believe would benefit from ABA therapy, submit a referral to Humana Military for "ABA therapy services under the Autism Demonstration Project" and include the autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Additionally, the patient's family must submit the child's current individualized ECHO coordinator.

ECHO coordinator contact information and additional ECHO program information is available on Humana Military's website at [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com). ■

## Focus on Patient Safety

Ever since the Institute of Medicine's "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System" report was published in 1999, patient safety and the prevention of medical errors have been hot topics in the health care community.<sup>1</sup> A follow-up report, "To Err is Human—To Delay is Deadly," asked the question, "Are we safer today than we were a decade ago?" This report notes that despite a decade of

work since the original report's publication, there is no reliable evidence to show that the United States is any more successful today in reducing harm caused by the medical system. Medical errors in the health care system are one of the primary causes of death and injury in this country, accounting for nearly 100,000 deaths each year.<sup>2</sup>

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## Focus on Patient Safety

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Patient safety emphasizes the importance of reporting, analyzing and preventing medical errors that often lead to adverse clinical events such as medication errors and other serious reportable events. While there has been progress in education and awareness of patient safety events, a universal culture of safety among health care professionals is not yet established. Multiple renowned organizations are working to correct this issue through their commitment to research and education of the public and health care professionals on this national epidemic. Two of these agencies are highlighted below.

- The Joint Commission is “committed to improving health care safety.”<sup>3</sup> It annually updates its National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) to help health care organizations and providers address specific areas of concern.<sup>4</sup> There are nine chapters to the NPSGs, including Ambulatory Health Care and Office-Based Surgery. Incorporating these goals into your policies and procedures is important for continuous improvement in patient care.
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) supports research to improve the outcomes and quality of

health care, reduce costs and address patient safety and medical errors. AHRQ annually publishes the “National Healthcare Quality Report,” which includes measures of patient safety indicators.<sup>5</sup> On [www.ahrq.gov](http://www.ahrq.gov), AHRQ provides information and links to patient safety online journals, tools and resources, as well as conferences and workshops.

For more information, visit the “Patient Safety” provider website at [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com). ■

1. IOM, “To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System” [www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/1999/To-Err-is-Human/To%20Err%20is%20Human%201999%20%20report%20brief.pdf](http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/1999/To-Err-is-Human/To%20Err%20is%20Human%201999%20%20report%20brief.pdf)
2. IOM, “To Err is Human—To Delay is Deadly” [www.safepatientproject.org/safepatientproject.org/pdf/safepatientproject.org-ToDelayIsDeadly.pdf](http://www.safepatientproject.org/safepatientproject.org/pdf/safepatientproject.org-ToDelayIsDeadly.pdf)
3. Joint Commission, Patient Safety [www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/facts\\_patient\\_safety.htm](http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/facts_patient_safety.htm)
4. Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) [www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/facts\\_patient\\_safety.htm](http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/facts_patient_safety.htm)
5. AHRQ, 2009 National Healthcare Quality Report [www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqr09/nhqr09.pdf](http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqr09/nhqr09.pdf)

## Home Health Care Services

TRICARE covers home health care (HHC) for qualified beneficiaries and follows the Prospective Payment System (PPS) for reimbursement. Modeled after the Medicare program, PPS now reimburses home health agencies (HHAs) per 60-day episode of care (EOC) when services are authorized by Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (Humana Military).

For a beneficiary to qualify for TRICARE coverage of any HHC services, the following criteria must be met:

- The attending physician establishes and signs the plan of care (POC) and signs the HHC certification
- The beneficiary is confined to the home and requires skilled nursing care on an intermittent basis (e.g., to draw blood) or has continued need for physical therapy, speech-language pathology or occupational therapy (e.g., after-hospital treatment)
- The HHA providing the services under the POC is a TRICARE participant

The certifying physician is responsible for the following steps:

- Signing the *Home Health Certification and Plan of Care (CMS Form 485)* at the initiation of any POC requiring HHC services

- Reviewing and adjusting the POC as the needs of the patient change (e.g., he or she no longer requires speech therapy but still requires other care)
- Gaining recertification for additional EOCs if the patient requires continued care from the same HHA at the conclusion of the initial 60-day EOC

Additional paid services may include:

- Durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies
- Food and Drug Administration-approved injectable drugs for osteoporosis
- Pneumococcal pneumonia, influenza virus and hepatitis B vaccines
- Oral cancer drugs and antiemetics
- Ambulance services operated by the HHA
- Enteral and parenteral supplies and equipment
- Other drugs and biologicals not administered orally

For more information about HHC, please see the *TRICARE Reimbursement Manual*, Chapter 12, or call Humana Military at 1-800-444-5445. ■

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**Claims**  
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www.myTRICARE.com

**Behavioral Health**  
1-800-700-8646

**TRICARE Pharmacy Program**  
1-877-363-1303  
www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE

**TRICARE Web Site**  
www.tricare.mil

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## Provider Education on Behavioral Health for TRICARE

In the past year, Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (Humana Military) and its behavioral health partner, ValueOptions, Inc., have worked to increase awareness among the general provider population about behavioral health issues in the military.

You may be accustomed to dealing with patients' behavioral health issues, including depression and even suicide risk. However, the military population, especially those returning from combat or their family members, may experience different behavioral health problems. The stress of the combat environment and long, frequent separations affect both active duty service members and their families.

Humana Military and ValueOptions have created a library of behavioral health education materials for depression, suicide risk and many other areas of behavioral health. The library also houses resources for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and their treatments.

The provider portal at [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com) includes brochures, articles and links to other websites, as well as a

listing of continuing medical education offerings on TBI and PTSD.

Humana Military and ValueOptions can also assist you in directing your patients to network behavioral health providers. ■

