

TRICARE Coverage of Immunizations

With children returning to school and families coming in for their annual checkups, now is a good time to focus on TRICARE’s coverage of immunizations.

General Coverage

TRICARE covers age-appropriate doses of vaccines as recommended and adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. TRICARE also covers immunizations required for active duty family members whose sponsors have permanent change-of-station orders to overseas locations. These immunizations are covered as outpatient office visits. Beneficiaries can visit a TRICARE retail network pharmacy to receive CDC-recommended flu and pneumococcal vaccines at no cost. All other vaccines must be administered in a doctor’s office or authorized convenient care clinic to be fully covered by TRICARE’s preventive health services cost-share waiver.

For children ages 5–11, TRICARE covers physicals and immunizations required for school enrollment. For eligible children from birth until reaching age 6, TRICARE covers

routine immunizations in accordance with CDC guidelines under TRICARE’s well-child benefit.

Coverage of the Influenza, Human Papillomavirus and Shingles Vaccines

Annual administration of the influenza vaccine is covered for beneficiaries meeting CDC’s guidelines.

For the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, TRICARE adheres to CDC guidance that the recommended age range for initial administration is 11–12 (but can be administered safely as early as 9), or 13–26 if not previously administered. The HPV vaccine is not covered after reaching age 26. The vaccine is covered only for female patients.

The TRICARE medical (not pharmacy) benefit covers a single dose of the shingles vaccine Zostavax®, purchased by a provider and administered in a provider’s office, for beneficiaries age 60 and older per CDC guidelines.

For more information about TRICARE immunization coverage, visit www.tricare.mil/immunizations. ■

From the Desk of the CMO

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The South Region has seen steady increases in requests for approval of surgery for morbid obesity throughout the last decade. In 2010, Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (Humana Military) implemented prior authorization requirements for bariatric surgery, and requests have stabilized at about 200 per month.

Multiple studies have demonstrated the clinical and cost effectiveness of these surgeries. Emerging evidence demonstrates the important role of bariatric surgery in treatment of diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, metabolic syndrome and other conditions.

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New Toolkit Offers Guidance on Treating Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) recently released a comprehensive clinical guidance toolkit designed to help primary care providers assess and manage patients with co-occurring traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health concerns.

The “Co-occurring Conditions Toolkit: Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health” combines clinical guidance and treatment recommendations from the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the management of mild TBI, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, chronic opioid therapy and substance use disorders.

The toolkit contains useful resources including screening tools to assist providers in effectively treating service members with a history of concussion and co-occurring psychological symptoms. Symptoms can include difficulty

sleeping, change in mood and chronic pain. The toolkit contains a diagnosis table for each symptom and the action recommended for treatment. Information on medication and patient communication tips are listed, as well as case reports of service members with co-occurring symptoms. A toolkit training video will be available in the future.

Additionally, Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (Humana Military) offers the Warrior Navigation and Assistance Program (WNAP) to help providers and beneficiaries effectively address wounded warrior treatment issues. For details, visit Humana Military’s website, www.humana-military.com, or call the WNAP toll-free number, 1-888-4GO-WNAP (1-888-446-9627).

To order hard copies of the toolkit, call the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at 1-800-870-9244 or send your request to info@dvbic.org. You may also download a copy from the DCoE website at www.dcoe.health.mil. ■

TRICARE Offers Support for Beneficiaries with Autism

The Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration program allows non-certified paraprofessionals (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 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 assistant 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:

- Active duty dependents
- Age 18 months or older
- Registered in the ECHO program
- Diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
- Referred for early intervention services or 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. A case manager will contact you and assist you as needed with ECHO registration.

ECHO coordinator contact information and additional ECHO program information is available on Humana Military’s website at www.humana-military.com. ■

From the Desk of the CMO

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Since 2007, Humana Military has encouraged beneficiaries to use bariatric surgery facilities and providers that are designated as Centers of Excellence. Though this is not a TRICARE requirement, more than 80 percent of TRICARE South Region bariatric procedures occur at these centers. Humana Military has observed rates of all-cause readmissions

in six months and surgical revisions to be lower in beneficiaries referred to Centers of Excellence for bariatric surgery.

It is exciting to anticipate the continuing evolution of techniques and indications for bariatric surgery, given the background of our obesity epidemic. Humana Military will continue to keep you informed about TRICARE's coverage of bariatric surgery as the Department of Defense reviews and updates its policies. Thank you for caring for our deserving TRICARE beneficiaries. ■

Behavioral Health and Web Services

Did you know you can request behavioral health care authorizations on the Web? By using the provider portal on Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc.'s (Humana Military's) website at www.humana-military.com, you can request behavioral health care services. In most cases, the entire episode of care can be authorized via the initial Web request, eliminating additional calls or faxes for continued services.

There are many advantages to using the Humana Military website, including:

- Eliminating the need for calling and requesting authorizations
- Verifying member eligibility
- Checking claims status
- Viewing previous authorizations
- Receiving immediate response with a decision instead of waiting for mail or a fax

Listed below is information you may find helpful when using the provider portal for behavioral health care services.

- Requesting an authorization for a behavioral health provider:
 - Behavioral health care providers are located under the "Allied Health Professional" designation
 - Use the name search function to locate a specific behavioral health care provider
- Requesting additional treatment for continued care:
 - Use your current authorization request if the dates are still active



- Build a new authorization request if your current authorization is no longer active or the authorization is more than 13 months old
- Include clinical notes, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes and any treatment updates that may be necessary

If you have not already registered on the provider portal at www.humana-military.com, Humana Military urges you to register now. Should you have any questions about behavioral health care authorizations, contact a ValueOptions Inc. provider relations representative at 1-800-700-8646. ■

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www.humana-military.com
1-800-444-5445

Claims
1-800-403-3950
www.myTRICARE.com

Behavioral Health
1-800-700-8646

Pharmacy Customer Service
1-877-363-1303
www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE

TRICARE Web Site
www.tricare.mil



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Network Specialty Pharmacy Vendors for Provider Office Orders

Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (Humana Military) offers the services of several network specialty pharmacies for physician-administered injectable drugs, as well as several immunizations.

Network specialty pharmacies can help answer many provider concerns regarding office-supplied injectables that are not self-administered by patients. These specialty pharmacies have network provider contracts with Humana Military, and they agree to bill PGBA, LLC directly for the drugs dispensed to each patient—eliminating your office’s need to incur the cost of the injectable or file the claim for these drugs.

The provider portal at www.humana-military.com offers information on finding network specialty pharmacies. The website also features order and prior authorization forms with fax numbers and information about each of the network specialty pharmacies and their available services.

As valued TRICARE providers, Humana Military wants to ensure you have access to everything you need in caring for TRICARE beneficiaries across the South Region. Be sure to check our website at www.humana-military.com for updates and additional services offered for providers. ■