

## **CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS SEEKING AND RECEIVING SERVICES THROUGH THE TRICARE AUTISM SERVICES DEMONSTRATION**

### **For Eligibility You Should:**

1. Enroll your child in your branch of service's Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP).
2. Register your child in the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program with the ECHO case manager of your regional contractor.
  - You can begin services during the ECHO registration process.
3. To begin services, your child must be 18 months or older.
4. Submit your child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) documentation to the Managed Care Support Contractor (MCSC).
  - If your child is homeschooled and your state does not require an IFSP or IEP, you must provide a letter from your child's PCP or Specialized ASD provider verifying that the child's disability related to Autism results in dysfunction severe enough to require special education and other support services.
  - You can initiate and continue services during IEP or IFSP development.
5. Ensure your child's behavioral plan, developed by the Educational Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorders (EIA) Supervisor, has been sent to the medical provider who will oversee your child's autism care.

### **For Eligibility Your Medical Provider Should:**

1. Submit verification and date of a diagnosis of Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, Asperger's Disorder or Childhood Disintegrative Disorder to the MCSC.
  - If the diagnosis was made by a provider other than a *Specialized ASD Provider* and officially recorded in the medical record on or after March 15, 2008, your medical provider must submit results of diagnostic testing and additional clinical information to the MCSC for review.
  - Beneficiaries who have a documented ASD diagnosis before March 15, 2008, do not need to be re-diagnosed with ASD or to complete diagnostic testing. Such beneficiaries are required to meet all other applicable requirements of the EIA Demonstration noted in items 1-5 above.

### **To Continue Receiving Services:**

1. Ensure that standardized testing of your child's verbal and non-verbal IQ is completed in the first 12 months of receiving services under the Demonstration.
  - Intelligence testing performed prior to the initiation of the Demonstration or performed by a local education authority or any tester that is or would be eligible as a TRICARE authorized provider is acceptable in meeting this requirement.

- If your child is unable to participate in intelligence testing, a letter from your Primary Care Provider (PCP) or Specialized ASD Provider is required to continue participation in the Demonstration every six months after the period described above.
2. Ensure that standardized testing of your child's language skills and adaptive behavior is completed in the first 12 months of receiving services
    - Language skills and adaptive behavior testing completed within the 24 months **prior** to initiation of EIA services under the Demonstration meets this requirement.
  3. Ensure your child's behavioral plan and EIA Progress Report developed by the EIA Supervisor, have been sent to the medical provider who is overseeing your child's autism care for review and approval every 6 months.
  4. Submit documentation to the MCSC every six months verifying yearly completion of classroom and practical training by at least one identified parent/caregiver. (Your ECHO case manager can provide more information on how to fulfill this requirement)

#### **Definitions:**

***Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)***– A supplemental program to the TRICARE basic program and provides eligible active duty family members with an additional financial resource for an integrated set of services and supplies designed to assist in the reduction of the disabling effects of the beneficiary's qualifying condition, such as moderate or severe mental retardation, a serious physical disability or an extraordinary physical or psychological condition such that the beneficiary is homebound.

***Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)***– A mandatory program for all active duty Service members and identifies family members with special medical and/or educational needs documenting the services they require.

***Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)*** – A written statement for a child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA).

***Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)*** – A written statement for an infant or toddler with developmental needs.

***Specialized ASD Provider*** – A TRICARE authorized provider who is MD board-certified/board-eligible in behavioral developmental pediatrics, neurodevelopmental pediatrics, pediatric neurology or child psychiatry. Or, a physician or PhD educated psychologist working primarily with children with specialized fellowship or on-the-job training.