



In Case You Missed it

TRICARE® West Region e-Updates

July 2023

- 1. Updates to TRICARE's dialysis benefit and reimbursement.** TRICARE has [expanded its coverage for dialysis services](#) to include peritoneal dialysis and treatment for acute kidney injury. TRICARE has also removed freestanding kidney dialysis facilities (freestanding ESRD facilities) from the corporate services provider list and added these facilities to TRICARE's authorized institutional provider list. Freestanding kidney dialysis facilities must be Medicare-certified and are reimbursed at a single, flat per-session fee which covers facility use, general nursing services, ESRD-related lab services, pharmaceuticals and supplies effective Jan. 12, 2023.
- 2. Temporary adoption of New COVID-19 Treatments Add-On Payment for Diagnosis-Related Groups (DRGs).** For dates of service between Jan. 12, 2023, through May 11, 2023, TRICARE adopted the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) [New COVID-19 Treatments Add-On Payment \(NCTAP\) for DRGs](#) under CMS' Inpatient Prospective Payment System. Hospitals can request NCTAPs for eligible inpatient TRICARE beneficiaries who received FDA-approved COVID-19 treatments during this period.
- 3. CPT® code 97155 requirements in the Autism Care Demonstration (ACD).** Health Net Federal Services, LLC (HNFS) reminds applied behavior analysis (ABA) providers about the mandatory TRICARE ACD requirement for [monthly adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification encounters](#). ABA supervisors must render at least one encounter per month for CPT 97155 for patients enrolled in the ACD. Failure to meet this requirement may result in a claims penalty.
- 4. Watch our new Network TRICARE Provider Roster tutorial.** HNFS offers a new video tutorial that walks you through using our Network TRICARE Provider Roster to submit group and demographic updates to us. We give you [tips to successfully complete required fields](#) and teach you how to avoid common errors that can result in processing delays. [Check it out](#) today!
- 5. Want to learn more about the provider credentialing process?** Our new credentialing hub at www.tricare-west.com can help. We designed our credentialing hub with health care providers' busy schedules in mind. You can quickly and easily locate the tools you need to complete credentialing tasks and resources you need to answer your questions.
- 6. Save time by using a letter of attestation (LOA) for benefits requiring pre-authorization.** Some services are covered under TRICARE as limited benefits. This means HNFS must confirm the patient meets specific clinical criteria before we can authorize care. To expedite this clinical review, we offer LOAs that can be submitted in lieu of additional clinical documentation. You can attach the completed LOA to your online pre-authorization request. Find the most [current LOAs](#) on our website.
- 7. Attend a live webinar on using CareAffiliate®.** CareAffiliate continues to be the preferred method for submitting pre-authorization and referral requests to HNFS. Need help using this tool? We've got you covered. Attend a live webinar presented by one of our TRICARE educators to learn the basics on using CareAffiliate. [View our current schedule](#) today!
- 8. Right of first refusal for specialty care.** When you refer TRICARE Prime beneficiaries for specialty care, they may be required to receive care at local military hospitals or clinics. This process, known as [TRICARE's right of first refusal](#), gives local military hospitals and clinics the opportunity to provide treatment or refer care out to civilian providers. To help military facilities determine if they have capacity to treat beneficiaries, please include as much clinical documentation as possible when submitting referral requests to HNFS.
- 9. Summer sun safety.** The National Cancer Institute reports skin cancer as the most common of all cancers, yet it's also one of the most curable and preventable forms of cancer. Talk with your patients about prevention and skin cancer screenings, and visit the CDC for [resources for your office](#). Find resources for your patients in our [Cancer Prevention Health Topics](#) section, or refer patients to our [Take Charge of Your Health](#) online program that focuses on other ways to stay well besides eating healthy and exercising daily.
- 10. Lifestyle change resource!** Our next [Making Healthy Changes for Life](#) webinar is on August 23. Whether your patient wants to manage stress, eat healthier, exercise more, sleep better, stop smoking, or improve their health in any way, this live class will provide the skills needed to help them make a change and continue healthy habits for life. Registration is required. No time for a live class? Refer patients to our [Assessing Your Readiness for Healthy Change](#) online program.