



TRICARE's Autism Care Demonstration

Quick Reference Guide For TRICARE West Region ABA Providers

Key Points

- TRICARE's Autism Care Demonstration (ACD) authorizes reimbursement for applied behavior analysis services to TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.
- All ABA providers must complete an ACD Participation Agreement and certification process for the ACD program to treat TRICARE beneficiaries.
- ACD providers are required to enroll in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) to be eligible for claims payments.
- Providers are encouraged to submit requests for authorization using the online referral management system on Availity.

This quick reference guide outlines the guidelines for providing care to TRICARE beneficiaries under the Autism Care Demonstration (ACD). It aims to help Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) providers deliver ABA services in compliance with the policy.

The ACD requires all ABA provider to sign a participation agreement and to become TRICARE certified.

Furthermore:

- If a provider wants to be a TRICARE Network provider, they also must be credentialed.
- Network providers will appear on the Network directory; Non-network providers will appear on the non-network directory.
- After TRICARE certification is complete, those who wish to become credentialed will be temporarily placed on the non-network list so that you are still searchable.



The chart below highlights ACD provider eligibility.

| Provider Contracting Status | TRICARE Certified + Signed Participation Agreement | TRICARE Certified + Signed Participation Agreement + Signed Network Agreement | TRICARE Certified + Signed Participation Agreement + Signed Network Agreement + TriWest Credentialed |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACD Provider Status | Non-Network, Participating Provider | Non-Network, Participating Provider | In Network, Participating Provider |
| Loaded in Non-Network Directory (search for Autism) | ✓ | ✓ | ⊘ |
| Loaded in ACD & T5 Directory "Find Autism Care Demonstration" | ⊘ | ⊘ | ✓ |
| Eligible to See Patients | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Claims Paid (EFT Enrollment Required) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Certification Reminders

Below are a few reminders about providing ABA services under the ACD. To render services under the ACD and receive claims payments from TriWest, ABA providers must:

- Meet all TRICARE ABA provider requirements and be certified.
Note: The certification process may take up to 10 business days for behavior technicians and up to 15 business days for all other providers.
- Sign an ACD participation agreement
- After providers sign a TriWest provider network agreement, the credentialing process will begin and may take up to 45 business days to complete.
- Once TRICARE credentialed, authorized ABA supervisors are considered network providers and will be listed in the provider directory accordingly.
- According to the ACD, ABA providers are required to enroll in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) for claims payment eligibility. To enroll, visit <https://tricare.triwest.com/en/provider/forms/> to download the EFT & ERA enrollment package. Instructions on how to complete the form are included. ([TOM Chapter 18, Section 3, item 8.11.2](#)).

Submitting Authorization Requests

Note: For more details visit, [TRICARE Operations Manual Chapter 18, Section 3](#).

- Treatment authorization requests should be made using the online referral management system on [Availity](#). Treatment plans, outcome measures and other appropriate documentation can be attached to the request. Search for care profiles using “ABA” to narrow the selection. [Explore the Availity Learning Center](#) for on-demand training for the TRICARE West Region.
- ABA providers must adhere to the following TRICARE requirements:
 - If ongoing services are clinically indicated, prior to the end of the six-month treatment authorization period, as early as 60 calendar days in advance, and no later than 30 calendar



days in advance, a request for continued care authorization should be requested by the ABA provider.

- There is no expedited review process, therefore, late submissions will not be reviewed and may cause a gap in authorization.
- Outcome measures must be completed.
- Termination of ABA services under any circumstance must not occur abruptly by the authorized ABA supervisor. All termination plans must be submitted at least 45 calendar days prior to the termination of services.
- The quickest and most convenient option to submit all Autism Care Demonstration requests and documents is via the [online referral management system on Availity](#). You can also send documents to the dedicated ACD fax at 877-875-9037.
 - This could include any mid-cycle outcome measures or documents requested for Quality Monitoring as required by TRICARE.

Please contact Autism Care Demonstration Customer Service at 833-818-2525 with additional questions.