



Provider Updates

In Case You Missed It | July 2021

- 1. Information regarding the COVID-19 Delta variant.** As the new **Delta variant** continues to spread rapidly throughout the U.S., it's important for beneficiaries to get vaccinated. Those who are fully vaccinated are protected from this newest strain. Do some of your patients have fear surrounding the vaccine? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers its **Vaccinate with Confidence** strategy to reinforce confidence in COVID-19 vaccines.
- 2. COVID-19 clinical trial notification.** TRICARE benefits are available to beneficiaries selected to participate in Phase I, II, III and IV National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)-sponsored COVID-19 clinical trials. Providers must notify HNFS of patients' COVID-19 clinical trial participation via fax at 1-844-818-9289. Include any supporting documentation, the **National Clinical Trial (NCT) number** and a local point of contact. For additional questions, call our Case/Care Management Line at 1-844-524-3578, option 5.
- 3. Autism Care Demonstration updates.** TRICARE continues to rollout changes to its Autism Care Demonstration (ACD), which provides applied behavior analysis (ABA) benefits to TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Be sure to visit www.tricare-west.com/go/ACD-provider and <https://health.mil/autism> to help you track new requirements and their effective dates. Learn more about **key updates** happening this summer.
- 4. Podiatrists may now prescribe physical or occupational therapy.** TRICARE recently updated its policy on which provider types can refer beneficiaries for physical or occupational therapy. Implemented on July 17, 2021, with a retroactive date of Dec. 17, 2020, podiatrists may now prescribe **physical therapy** or **occupational therapy** within the scope of their license.
- 5. Understanding the right of first refusal process for specialty care.** When a TRICARE Prime beneficiary is referred for specialty care, he/she may be required to receive care at a local military hospital or clinic, even when enrolled to a civilian primary care manager. This process, known as **TRICARE's right of first refusal**, gives local military hospitals and clinics the opportunity to determine if they can provide treatment or if care should be referred out to a civilian providers. In order to help military facilities reasonably determine if they can effectively treat a beneficiary, please include as much clinical documentation as possible when submitting referral requests to HNFS.
- 6. Learn more about the Philips medical device recall.** Looking for information on the Philips sleep and respiratory care medical device voluntary recall? Find details on the **Philips website**. For details specific to TRICARE authorizations and claims, visit www.tricare-west.com.
- 7. Don't forget to verify patient eligibility.** Verifying patient eligibility is a provider responsibility that helps ensure you get paid for services rendered, the patient's coverage is valid, and both you and your patient understand copayment and other costs that may be incurred. Check eligibility by using our **Eligibility & Deductible tool**, using the self-service prompt when calling 1-844-866-WEST (9378), or by submitting an electronic data interchange (EDI) transaction.
- 8. Join a live webinar to learn about TRICARE.** Want to refresh your TRICARE knowledge? Our trained TRICARE staff offer live webinars that go over all the basics of the TRICARE program. Check out our **current schedule** today!
- 9. Summer and skin cancer prevention.** According to the National Cancer Institute, skin cancer is still the most common of all cancers. It is also one of the most curable and most preventable forms of cancers. Encourage your patients to use protective measures and examine their skin during routine exams. Visit **Choosing Wisely** for guidelines on nonmelanoma skin cancer.
- 10. Getting patients ready to make a healthy lifestyle change.** TRICARE patients can take our **Assessing Your Readiness for Healthy Change** online program to help determine their level of readiness, learn how to set S.M.A.R.T. goals and attain skills which help them be successful with change. Patients can practice even more skills in the live **Making Healthy Changes for Life** webinar on September 2. Registration is required.

COVID-19 Updates: Go to www.tricare-west.com/go/COVID19.