



STATUS UPDATE FOR THE TRICARE AUTISM CARE DEMONSTRATION (ACD) PROGRAM

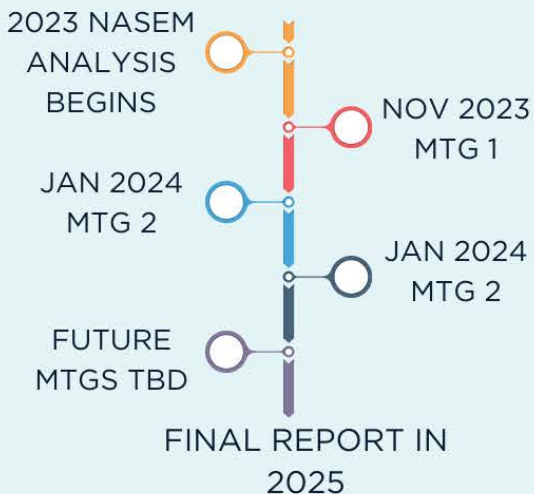
The ACD covers applied behavior analysis (ABA) services to all TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)



DoD claims ABA services do not meet the TRICARE hierarchy of reliable evidence standard for medically necessary services and will remain under study through the ACD program. ~ACD Annual Report Jan 2024

That assertion contradicts the findings of numerous professional associations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics

FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandated DoD to contract the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) to conduct an independent analysis of the ACD.



While the NASEM analysis is ongoing, military families continue to struggle to access ABA services.

Affects on the 3 R's

Readiness

August 2023 Marine Corps analysis revealed the TRICARE ABA provider network does not have capacity to support the growing need

Retention

2023 MAA/MSOFC* survey - 50% of special operation forces (SOF) respondents enrolled in the ACD plan to leave the service earlier than expected d/t barriers to accessing ABA services

Resilience

2021 MAA survey - 90% of respondents reported an increased level of stress, depression, and/or anxiety as a result of the 2021 ACD program policy changes

*MAA/MSOFC = Mission Alpha Advocacy/Military Special Operations Family Collaborative

	TRICARE				Medicaid			Anthem BC/BS			United Healthcare			Cigna		
	Initial	Annual	6 mos	2 Years	Initial	Annual	6 mos	Initial	Annual	6 mos	Initial	Annual	6 mos	Initial	Annual	6 mos
Assessment/Treatment Plan	X		X		X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
New referral /ABA Md Order	X			X	X			X*			X*			X*		
Autism Diagnosis Verification	X			X	X			X			X			X		
DSM-V Diagnostic Checklist				X												
Parent PDDBI (under age 18)	X		X													
Teacher PDDBI (under age 18)			X													
Vineland - 3	X	X								X*		X*			X**	
SRS-2	X	X										X*				
PSI-4-SF or SIPA (under age 18)	X		X													
RBT Registration	X															
Parent Training	X		6 times													

*Depending on Plan

** Any appropriate standardized assessment

*This table is an example of insurance mandates for one state. Requirements vary across states and even within payers within the same state.

Military families must jump through more hoops to receive ABA services than the civilian population

What Can Be Done Now?

- 1 Remove the requirement to enroll in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) in order to receive Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) benefits



- 2 Remove the requirement to complete the parent stress assessment every 6 months in order to remain enrolled in the ACD program

Parents seeking ABA services for their children are the **ONLY** population within the DoD that must take an assessment evaluating **their** stress level in order for their **child** to continue receiving a mental health service

What is the End Goal?

ABA services are covered as a TRICARE basic benefit and military families receive quality ABA services according to the professional standards of care.

