

## Chapter 9

## Section 17.1

### Providers

Issue Date: August 4, 1988  
Authority: [32 CFR 199.6\(e\)](#)

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#### 1.0 POLICY

**1.1** Services and items cost-shared through the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) must be rendered by TRICARE authorized providers.

**1.2** ECHO inpatient care providers: A provider of residential institutional care authorized under the ECHO must:

**1.2.1** Be a not-for-profit organization which primarily provides services to the disabled, OR

**1.2.2** Be a facility operated by the state or under state contract, AND

**1.2.3** Meet all applicable licensing or certification requirements that are extant in the state, county, municipality, or other political jurisdiction in which the provider is located.

**1.3** ECHO outpatient care providers. A provider of ECHO outpatient, ambulatory, or in-home services shall be:

**1.3.1** An authorized provider of services as defined in [32 CFR 199.6](#), or

**1.3.2** An individual, corporation, foundation, or public entity that predominantly renders services of a type uniquely allowable as a ECHO benefit and not otherwise allowable as a benefit of [32 CFR 199.4](#), that meets all applicable licensing or other regulatory requirements that are extant in the state, county, municipality, or other political jurisdiction in which the ECHO service is rendered.

**1.4** Individual professional providers authorized by [32 CFR 199.6](#) for the Basic Program are also authorized providers for the ECHO. Individual professional providers who can be authorized only under the ECHO must meet all applicable licensing and other regulatory requirements that are extant in that state, county, municipality, or other political jurisdiction in which the ECHO service is rendered, or, in the absence of such licensing or regulatory requirements, as determined by the Director, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) or designee.

**1.5** For the purpose of services rendered in conjunction with Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) under the ECHO Special Education benefit (see [Section 9.1](#)), TRICARE-authorized providers are those that:

**1.5.1** Have a current State license to provide ABA services; or

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**1.5.2** Are currently State-certified as an Applied Behavioral Analyst; or

**1.5.3** Where such State license or certification is not available, are certified by the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB) as either a Board Certified Behavior Analyst or a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst; and

**1.5.4** Otherwise meet all applicable requirements of TRICARE-authorized providers.

**1.6** ECHO vendor. A provider of an allowable ECHO item, supply, equipment, orthotic, or device shall be deemed to be an authorized vendor for the provision of the specific item, supply, equipment, orthotic, or device when the vendor supplies such information as the Managed Care Support Contractor (MCSC) or Director, TRICARE Area Office (TAO) determines necessary to adjudicate a specific claim.

**2.0 EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2005.

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