

Eligibility - Qualifying Condition: Serious Physical Disability

Issue Date: July 3, 1997

Authority: [32 CFR 199.5\(b\)\(2\)\(ii\)](#), 10 USC 1079(d)(3)

1.0 POLICY

1.1 Any physiological disorder or condition or anatomical loss affecting one or more body systems which has lasted, or with reasonable certainty is expected to last, for a minimum period of 12 contiguous months, and which precludes the person with the disorder, condition or anatomical loss from unaided performance of at least one of the following major life activities is an Extended Health Care Option (ECHO) qualifying condition: breathing, cognition, hearing, seeing, and age appropriate ability essential to bathing, dressing, eating, grooming, speaking, stair use, toilet use, transferring, and walking.

1.2 For a beneficiary less than three years of age, a developmental delay qualifies as a serious physical disability when the score on the standardized diagnostic psychometric tests of motor function is 2 standard deviations below the mean.

1.3 Serious physical disabilities include, but are not limited to the following conditions (International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes cited) for the purpose of establishing an ECHO qualifying condition:

1.3.1 Infantile Cerebral Palsy: 343.0 through 343.9.

1.3.2 Spina Bifida: 741.0 through 741.93

1.3.3 Vision: 369.01 through 369.08 inclusive; 369.11 through 369.14 inclusive; 369.21; 369.22; 369.4

1.3.4 Hearing-Testable Patients: as determined by audiologic function tests:

- A pure tone hearing threshold level of 45 decibels or greater in one ear; or by
- A pure tone hearing threshold level of 30 decibels or greater in both ears; or by
- Speech discrimination of 60% or poorer with either ear.

1.3.5 Hearing-Non-Testable Patients: Where pure tone audiometry or speech discrimination testing is not available or reliable, the attending physician must submit documentation which demonstrates the patient is unable to engage in basic productive activities of daily living expected of unimpaired persons of the same age group.

1.3.6 Breathing: Total reliance upon a respirator.

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1.3.7 Acquired or congenital total loss, or loss of use, of an arm or leg.

1.3.8 Autism: Associated with deficits in one or more body systems.

2.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2005.

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