

Tricare Extended Care Health Option

The Tricare Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) provides financial assistance to active duty family members who qualify based on a specific mental or physical disabilities and offers an integrated set of services and supplies not available through basic Tricare.

ECHO services are available to **only** active duty family members with a qualifying condition.

Qualifying Condition:

- *Moderate or severe mental retardation
- *A serious physical disability
- *An extraordinary physical or psychological condition of such complexity that the family member is homebound.
- *A diagnosis of a neuromuscular developmental condition in an infant or toddler that is expected to precede a diagnosis of moderate or severe mental retardation or serious physical disability
- *Multiple disabilities, which may qualify there are two or more disabilities affecting separate body systems

Determination of Eligibility:

Instructions: The two main literary sources regarding ECHO services are the ECHO booklet and Health Net Web Site.

Instructions illustrated in the ECHO booklet:

1. Sponsors or family member to call 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273) or www.healthnetfederalservices.com

Instructions illustrated on Health Net Web site:

1. Sponsor or family member must contact must register with Health Net Federal Services and ask for Case Management Coordinator for ECHO program in sub-region.
2. Sponsor or family member must fax copy of EFMP Medical Summary (DD2792) and Special Education/Early Intervention Summary (DD 2792-1) and a physician's request for services to sub-region.

3. Mid Atlantic (Southern VA, NC) Ph# 800-977-7531 Fax# 757-766-5900

To begin using ECHO services, qualifying family members must be enrolled in the EFMP and obtain advance authorization from ECHO Regional Contractor.

a. EFMP enrollment is mandatory to determine eligibility for ECHO Services. DD2792 and DD 2792-1 and physician's request for services must be provided to determine eligibility.

b. Under certain circumstances (i.e. disenrollment from EFMP due to change in custodial status), the EFMP enrollment requirement can be waived. The waiver process will require sponsor/family member providing medical documentation directly to ECHO Regional Contractor.

c. When registration in ECHO is completed, the DEERS record will be modified to indicate eligibility for ECHO services.

d. ECHO Regional Contractor must authorize all ECHO services in advance. This may require the physician submitting a request for medical services claim (Form DD 2642).

ECHO Covered Services:

ECHO financially covers services not payable through TRICARE basic program or covered by any other public assistance programs.

1. Medical and rehabilitative services
2. Training to use assistive technology devices
3. Special education
4. Institutional care when a residential environment is required
- 5. Transportation under certain circumstances (Transportation can be reimbursed to and from ECHO approved services only)**
6. Assistive services, such as those from a qualified interpreter or translator.
7. Durable equipment, including adaptation and maintenance
8. Expanded in home medical services through TRICARE ECHO Home Health Care.

Cost:

Sponsors must pay part of the monthly expenses for family members to receive authorized services. The monthly cost share is based on the sponsor's pay grade (i.e. E-1 to E-5 \$25). The cost share paid is one fee per sponsor not individual family member.

The maximum amount of the cost covered per calendar month per family member is \$2,500. The annual limit of cost for TRICARE ECHO Home Health Care is different. The cost limit per calendar month is based on the amount Tricare would pay annually if the ECHO registered family member resided in a skilled nursing home.