OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS
SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 810, 5111 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

SEP 12 2011

The Honorable John B. Larson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Larson:

Thank you for your inquiry of August 5, 2011, regarding Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy and the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program. We are able to provide the following answers to your questions regarding your request for information regarding the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder:

1. How many military dependents are age 18 and younger?

   Answer: 2.2 million beneficiaries

2. How many of these individuals have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder?

   Answer: 23,500 beneficiaries

3. How many individuals who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder are enrolled in the ECHO program or are separately enrolled in the Autism ABA Demonstration per Section 10 of Chapter 20 of the TRICARE Operations Manual (TOM)?

   Answer: 4,900 beneficiaries

4. How many of these individuals have had claims submitted for ABA? Specifically those claims for TRICARE approved CPT code 99199 for ABA under the ECHO program and TRICARE approved HCPCS codes (S5108 and H2019) for ABA therapy under the Autism ABA Demonstration per paragraph 9 of Section 10 of Chapter 20 of the TOM.

   Answer: 3,600 beneficiaries

The above responses represent eligibility and health care encounters during Fiscal Year 2010. Eligibility was determined from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Utilization of the ECHO and the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration was obtained from the Comprehensive Ambulatory/Provider Encounter Records for care provided at Military Treatment Facilities and the TRICARE Encounter Data Operational Data Store for purchased care.

Thank you for your interest in the Military Health System and its beneficiaries. We at TRICARE are proud to serve our Nation's military heroes and their families and are committed to providing them the best possible health care.

Sincerely,

Michael W. O'Bar

Michael W. O'Bar
Deputy Chief
TRICARE Policy and Operations

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TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

SEP 12 2011

The Honorable Walter B. Jones
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jones:

Thank you for your inquiry of August 5, 2011, regarding Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy and the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program. We are able to provide the following answers to your questions regarding your request for information regarding the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder:

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