

**WEBINAR:** September 23, 2021, 1 p.m. EDT

# What's New in TRICARE's Autism Care Demonstration

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## Summary Description

This webinar will highlight changes and new resources for families participating in the Autism Care Demonstration.

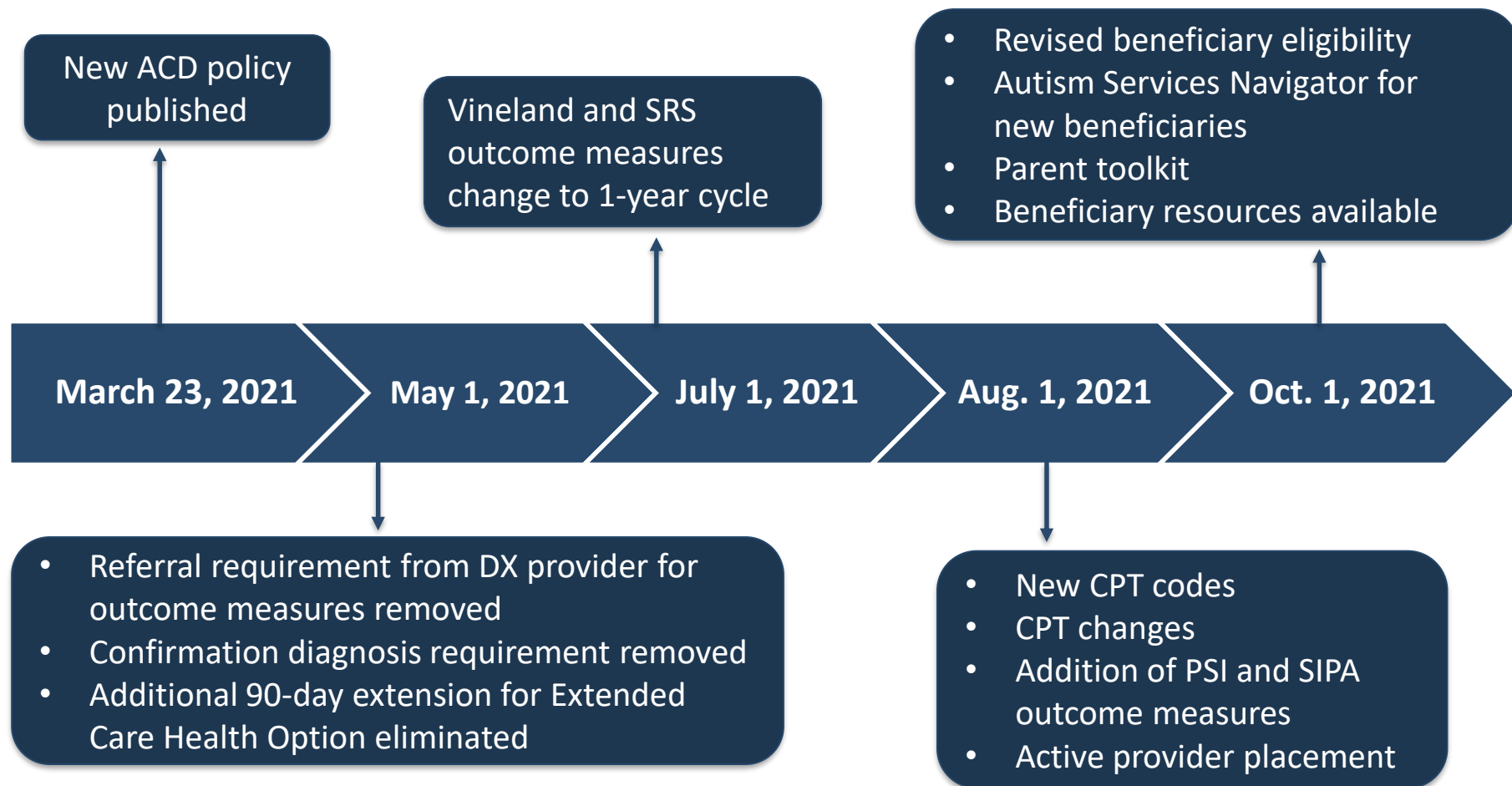
It will provide an overview of ACD services, including the new Autism Services Navigator for new families entering the program on or after Oct. 1, 2021, and other topics for parents and families.

# Agenda

- Final ACD Policy Changes [PAGE 5-7](#)
- Autism Services Navigator [PAGE 8-11](#)
- Outcome Measures and Parental Involvement [PAGE 12-13](#)
- Enhanced Parent and Family Support [PAGE 14](#)
- TRICARE News and Information [PAGE 15](#)
- TRICARE Contact Information [PAGE 16](#)
- Q&A [PAGE 17](#)



# Autism Care Demonstration 2021 Changes Timeline



# Implementation of Final ACD Policy Changes

- The TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration, or ACD, is authorized to provide clinically necessary and appropriate applied behavior analysis, or ABA, services for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.
- Providers must render the active delivery of ABA services.
- The ACD will have changes occurring on Oct. 1, 2021, particularly for beneficiaries who are new to the program.

# Key Changes Starting October 1

- TRICARE will assign new beneficiaries an Autism Services Navigator, or ASN, after enrolling in the ACD program.
- TRICARE contractors will make additional ACD resources available, such as a parent toolkit and an online resource library.
- Parents will have more opportunities for increased involvement and engagement with their child's treatment.
- Revisions to obtaining eligibility to the ACD program will go into effect.

# What is an Autism Services Navigator

- The Autism Services Navigator, or ASN, helps coordinate medical and non-medical services for families who are new to the ACD.
- The role of the ASN includes:
  - Initiate contact with the beneficiary and family once a referral is placed
  - Develop a Comprehensive Care Plan
  - Coordinate medical services through military hospitals and clinics, Extended Care Health Option, respite, ABA and parent-mediated programs
  - Ensure all services work in collaboration to achieve the optimal outcome
  - Coordinate and participate in medical team conferences
  - Help with continuity of care when a family moves, a military sponsor retires or a treating provider is unavailable
  - Identify and facilitate connections with local community resources
  - Provide educational resources about autism spectrum disorder



# Autism Services Navigator for New Beneficiaries

- Your child will only get an ASN if you're new to the ACD starting Oct. 1, 2021. A new beneficiary is defined as follows:
  - Not currently receiving ABA services under the ACD
  - A gap in ABA services of greater than 12 months
- An ASN applies to beneficiaries enrolled in the East Region (Humana Military) or the West Region (Health Net Federal Services).
  - The ASN is employed by or contracted through these two TRICARE regional contractors.
  - You won't have an ASN if you're enrolled in the TRICARE Overseas Program, US Family Health Plan or TRICARE For Life.
- If you're currently enrolled in the ACD and receiving ABA services, but you move from one TRICARE region to another, you won't count as a new beneficiary. You'll still have transition support through other services.

## Commonly Asked Question: Autism Services Navigator

**Q: If only new beneficiaries after Oct. 1, 2021 get an Autism Services Navigator, what kind of support do existing beneficiaries receive?**

**A:** Right now, only beneficiaries entering the program after Oct. 1, 2021 will be assigned an Autism Services Navigator. If you entered the Autism Care Demonstration before October 2021, you have access to case management services through a variety of resources, including your regional contractor, military hospitals and clinics, and the Exceptional Family Member Program. Also, many resources will be available for all beneficiaries on the contractors' websites.

# Autism Services Navigator and Comprehensive Care Plan

- You and your child's ASN will develop and maintain your child's Comprehensive Care Plan.
- The Comprehensive Care Plan will:
  - Identify all care and services for each new beneficiary in the Autism Care Demonstration
  - Document outcome measures, track timelines and help ensure families obtain the measures they need when the time comes
  - Document permanent change of station timelines, where applicable
  - Develop a discharge and transition plan
- The plan allows for a more consistent and beneficiary-centric approach.
- The plan will get updated every six months in line with the continued authorization of ABA services.

# Outcome Measures and Parental Involvement

- As of Aug. 1, 2021, all outcome measures must be completed prior to issuing ABA treatment authorizations.
- There are four outcome measures:
  - Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales-3, baseline and every year
  - Social Responsiveness Scale, 2nd Edition, baseline and every year
  - Pervasive Developmental Disorder Behavior Inventory, baseline and every six months
  - Parenting Stress Index or Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents, baseline and every six months
- All outcome measures completed by the board certified behavior analyst, or BCBA, require prior authorization. The only required measure to be completed by the BCBA is the Pervasive Developmental Disorder Behavior Inventory, or PDDBI.
- Increased parental involvement empowers parents to have a greater role in the development of the Comprehensive Care Plan and treatment plan for their child.

## Commonly Asked Question: Parent Stress Measures

**Q: What is the purpose of the parent stress measures, and how does it apply to the core symptoms of autism?**

**A:** Research has shown that parents' stress impacts the child and the child's environment, which may affect their symptoms. The parent stress measures help to identify potential stress, identify appropriate resources and ultimately help the beneficiary and family in the long term. If appropriate, the provider will develop goals or targets that are relevant to your child.

# Enhanced Parent and Family Support

- Starting Oct. 1, 2021, TRICARE regional contractors will include additional information and resources for ACD families on their websites:
  - Parent toolkit with information about the ACD program
  - Information about clinical and nonclinical treatments and services
  - Local area supports and resources
  - Military supports and resources
  - Parent-mediated intervention services

# Keep Up With TRICARE News and Information

- TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration  
<https://www.tricare.mil/autism>
- Autism Care Demonstration Q&As  
<https://www.health.mil/autism>
- TRICARE News  
<https://newsroom.tricare.mil>
- TRICARE Changes  
<https://www.tricare.mil/changes>

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# TRICARE Contractors

- **EAST Region**  
Humana Military  
800-444-5445  
<https://www.humanamilitary.com>  
<http://www.tricare-east.com>
- **WEST Region**  
Health Net Federal Services, LLC  
844-866-WEST, 844-866-9378  
<https://www.tricare-west.com>
- **US Family Health Plan**  
800-74-USFHP, 800-748-7347  
<https://www.tricare.mil/usfhp>  
<https://www.usfhp.com>
- **TRICARE Overseas Program**  
International SOS Government Services, Inc.  
For toll-free, country-specific contact information, visit  
<https://www.tricare-overseas.com/contact-us>
- **TRICARE For Life**  
**Wisconsin Physicians Service—**  
**Military and Veterans Health**  
U.S. and U.S. territories  
866-773-0404  
866-773-0405, TTY/TDD  
<https://www.tricare.mil/tfl>  
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## Q&A

- Submit your question using the live chat feature in the webinar platform.





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