Ethical Advocacy for Autistic Beneficiaries: TRICARE Challenges and Solutions

Presented by:

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June 6, 2022
Speaker Affiliations

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Tricare Webinar

Ethical Advocacy for Autistic Beneficiaries: TRICARE Challenges and Solutions

1 BACB Ethics CEU

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Monday | June 6 | 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern
Housekeeping

Please submit your questions and monitor for responses in the Q&A box

Please limit use of the chat box for comments

There is 1 BACB Ethics CEU for this webinar
CASP Recorded Webinars

In partnership with ABA España, CASP recorded the Spanish edition of ABA Practice Guidelines for Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
CASP Online CEU Center

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE COUNCIL OF AUTISM SERVICE PROVIDERS

CASP CEU Center Discount
CASP Members continue to get free CEUs!
Non-Members get a 22% discount on all CEU courses when entering the coupon code "CASP2022" at checkout.

Offer Expires January 31, 2022
Agenda

• Ethical core principles and advocacy
• Ethical standards and TRICARE
• Advocacy strategy
• How you can help
Disclaimer

Neither the BACB nor the DHA have reviewed or approved the content of this presentation. This presentation should not serve as a substitute for policy interpretation or professional legal advice.
Core Principles of Behavior Analysts and Advocacy
Benefits Others

- Focus on the short- and long-term effects of your professional activities
  - Collaboration is key
- Identify and address the negative impacts of your own physical and mental health on your professional activities
  - Check yourself
  - Differentiate personal feelings from professional concerns
- Effectively and respectfully collaborate with others in the best interest of those with whom you work and always placing clients’ interests first
Compassion, Dignity, and Respect

• Treat others equitably
  • No matter who you engage with
• Support stakeholder decision making by keeping them informed
  • Adjustments made to current policy
  • Enhancements offered
  • Advocacy efforts
Behave with Integrity

• Following through on obligations
  • Uphold the TRICARE policy

• Be accountable for your work and the work of your supervisees and trainees, and correct errors in a timely manner
  • 2.06 - Accuracy in Service Billing and Reporting

• Being knowledgeable about and upholding the BACB and other regulatory requirements
  • State licensure laws
Important Considerations

• FY2020 Annual DoJ Report of DHHS and Justice
  • To coordinate federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts relating to health care fraud and abuse with respect to health plans (p4)

• DHA’s Annual Report on the ACD Program FY2021
  • Revisions to the manual implement improved oversight and auditing systems with the goal of reducing the number of fraud, waste, and abuse activities, and improve the integrity of the ACD (p36)

• OIG Reports
  • 2017
  • 2018
Competence

• Remaining current and increasing your knowledge of best practices and advances in ABA
  • Ensure you are using the most effective and efficient interventions

• Being aware of, work within, and continually evaluate the boundaries of your competence
  • Provide ABA services according to what you know
Ethical Standards and TRICARE
Ethical Decision Making

• 1. Clearly define the issue and evaluate risk of harm.
• 2. Identify all relevant individuals.
• 8. Measure everything using the Code.
• 9. Choose the most optimal path.
• 10. Collaborate with others and be accountable.
• 11. Evaluate the progress made.
Democracy in Action

- You elect officials who represent your values, needs, and priorities
- They are responsible for overseeing national programs
- Scale concerns aligned with the ethical decision making process identified in the Code
House Armed Services Committee & Senate Armed Services Committee

General Counsel
TRICARE Health Plan
Benefit implementation
Advocating for Appropriate Services – 3.12

- Cannot target vocational or adaptive skill deficits
- Services excluded from school/community settings
- Code 97155 specific only to developing a new or modifying a current protocol; demonstrating protocol to behavior technician
- PSI-4/SIPA – Caregiver concerns
CASP Advocacy Strategy
Decision Making Process

- Current efforts are unsuccessful
- Root cause analysis
- Areas of impact to effect greatest change
Three Requests and A Recommendation

• Begin analysis by the National Academies of the Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) cited in FY 2022 NDAA
• Implement the CPT codes according to their AMA definitions and generally accepted standards of care
• Return the rates to what was posted May 1st, 2021
• Substitute the Child and Family Quality of Life (Second Edition) scale
Start the NASEM Analysis

- FY 2022 NDAA – December 27th, 2021
- 60 days later
- Evaluation of methodology used to measure progress
- Examine guidelines and industry standards of care
- Measure of the effectiveness of the ACD program
Appropriate CPT Code Implementation

- Lift restrictions on settings
- Allow for all activities associated with code 97155
- Concurrent billing of 97153 & 97155
Return the Rates

- Average of a 3% decrease in code 97153
- Great Resignation
- Pandemic costs
- Competitive market
- Limited workforce
Use the CFLQ-2 Instead

- 26 items
- Open source
- Sensitive to change
- Good psychometric properties
- Ages 2.5 – 19 years
- Measures more than just a single construct
  - Child QoL
  - Family QoL
  - Caregiver QoL
  - Financial QoL
  - Social Network QoL
  - Partner Relationship QoL
  - Coping QoL
How You Can Help
Opportunity to Advocate Right now

• The House and Senate Armed Services Committees will be marking up the National Defense Authorization Act over the next ten days.

• It is important that the members of the congress who service on these committees hear from people who live in their districts.
Do You Live in Any of These Districts or Know Anyone Who Does?

If you live in any of these states, please put your email address in the chat box so we can follow up with you.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - New York
Senator Tom Tillis - North Carolina
Senator Mazie Hirono - Hawaii
Senator Josh Hawley - Missouri
Senator Elizabeth Warren - Massachusetts
Senator Tommy Tuberville - Alabama

Congresswoman Jackie Speier - California
Congressman Mike Gallagher - Wisconsin
Congressman Andy Kim - New Jersey
Congresswoman Stephanie Bice - Oklahoma
Congresswoman Chrissy Houlihan - Pennsylvania
Congresswoman Lisa McClain - Michigan
Congresswoman Veronica Escobar - Texas

Congressman Ronny Jackson - Texas
Congresswoman Sara Jacobs - California
Congressman Jerry L. Carl - Alabama
Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland - Washington
Congressman Pat Fallon - Texas
Congressman Marc Veasey - Texas
How Do You Contact Them?

Contact information can be found at www.congress.gov/contact-us

Contact Judith Ursitti at jursitti@casproviders.org

Sample call scripts and emails will be shared via email and on our website after the webinar.
What Do I Say?

Whether you are calling, emailing, or both, here is what you need to do:

**Step 1:**
Identify yourself, including where you live. (Bonus if you are a constituent!) Tell them that access to meaningful autism treatment for Tricare families matters to you.

**Step 2:**
Make Three Requests and Recommendation (See next slide.)

**Step 3:**
Asking everyone you know to do the same!
Three Requests and A Recommendation

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• Substitute the Child and Family Quality of Life (Second Edition) scale
Resources Will be Provided After This Webinar on our Website

- One pager
- Sample language you can use for emails and phone calls
- Recording of the webinar
- CASP Members – Join our TRICARE SIG
Questions & Answers
Thank you!