2011 Military Health System Conference

TRICARE Policy and Operations

Evolving to Support the Quadruple Aim

The Quadruple Aim: Working Together, Achieving Success

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**TRICARE Policy and Operations: Evolving to Support the Quadruple Aim**

Presented at the 2011 Military Health System Conference, January 24-27, National Harbor, Maryland
Outline

- Track L Overview
- Examples of Evolution
  - TRICARE in Alaska
  - Autism Services Demonstration
Evolving to achieve the Quadruple Aim
– Affecting all four aspects
  • Readiness
  • Population Health
  • Experience of Care
  • Per Capita Cost
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**1. Readiness**  **2. Population Health**  **3. Experience of Care**  **4. Per Capita Cost**
TRICARE in ALASKA
TRICARE in Alaska

- Obtaining health care in Alaska is challenging
  - Beneficiary demand often exceeds provider supply
    - 1,700 non-Federal physicians
  - Reimbursement rates exceed those in other states
  - Many remote areas

- TRICARE beneficiaries in Alaska:
  - 90,000: 14 percent of the population
    - 78,000 ADSMs and ADFMs
    - 12,000 retirees and their families
TRICARE in Alaska

- TRICARE Prime offered only in military treatment facilities

- Enrollees frequently sent to Washington State for specialty care
  - Impact on readiness
  - Prime Travel Benefit costs

- Special reimbursement rates
  - State-wide reimbursement demonstration
    - Physicians and other non-institutional providers paid above Medicare rates
    - Expires December 31, 2012
TRICARE in Alaska – The Way Ahead

- Expand implementation of the TRICARE Program in Alaska
  - Federal Register notice published November 3, 2010
  - MCSC develop and operate a limited TRICARE civilian preferred provider network
    - Establish Fairbanks Prime Service Areas
    - Permit enrollment to network primary care managers
TRICARE in Alaska – The Way Ahead

- Preferred provider network for Anchorage area
  - Pending successful establishment and operation of Fairbanks preferred provider network

- Establish new reimbursement system
  - Based upon reimbursement demonstration results
  - Legislation required
Autism Services Demonstration
Autism Services Demonstration -
Background

- **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
  - A promising educational / training intervention for treatment of autism spectrum disorders
  - Provided by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA)
    - Certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)
    - **Access problem**: relatively few BCBAs available
Autism Services Demonstration - Background

- ABA can not be covered under the TRICARE Basic Program
  - Statute for Basic Program permits provision of only medical services and equipment

- ABA can be covered under the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)
  - Statute permits provision of special education and training services to ADFMs
Autism Services Demonstration - Purpose

- Determine effectiveness of expanding the ABA provider base through use of “tutors”
  - Increase access to ABA services
  - Tutors work under supervision of BCBAs
- Metrics:
  - Number of participating children, BCBAs, and tutors
  - Satisfaction of parents, as assessed by survey
Autism Services Demonstration - Experience

- Demonstration period:
  - March 2008 – March 2012
Autism Services Demonstration - Experience

- Autism Survey results:
  - Easier for beneficiaries to access providers
  - General satisfaction with the number of ABA service hours obtained
    - ECHO annual cap of $36,000 on payments by TRICARE
  - Parents satisfied with quality of demonstration ABA services, though not as satisfied as those receiving only ECHO services
Autism Services Demonstration - Experience

- Autism Survey results:
  - Half the parents with children enrolled in the Demonstration reported their child’s condition was much better
    - 90 percent reported their child’s condition was at least a little better since receiving ABA
  - About two-thirds of those with children enrolled in the Demonstration responded that receiving ABA services would greatly increase their chances of staying in the military
    - Compares with approximately 50 percent in the ECHO-only group
Transition from the Demonstration to making the BCBA / tutor model a permanent ECHO benefit
  
  – Requires modifying the Code of Federal Regulations
Questions?