

Algorithms for Navigating Intervention and Funding Systems

The Military Family and Autism

Introduction

These algorithms are built as flowcharts that help you organize the steps involved in acquiring funding and services as soon as possible. Both algorithms assume that a diagnosis has been made. For more information about obtaining a diagnosis, please contact your Primary Care Physician and follow the steps outlined in Appendix A. In addition, the final page provides some ideas for establishing a social network for you and your family.

You will move through both algorithms at the same time. By doing this, you stay continuously engaged in activity though you may be waiting for one step to be completed (e.g. waiting for someone to phone back or to hear back from TRICARE). This continuous engagement helps in two very important ways. It reduces anxiety (it's said that doing something about a problem helps allay the anxiety associated with that problem) and helps minimize as much as possible the time between diagnosis and the beginning of services. It's a little like building a railroad. One builds the railroad and lays the tracks because they are necessary for the rail service. If one waited for the engine and passenger cars first before putting in the tracks, all the more time would be required.

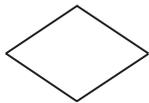
Algorithm Key:



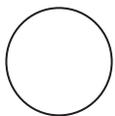
Start



Action / Process



Decision



Stop

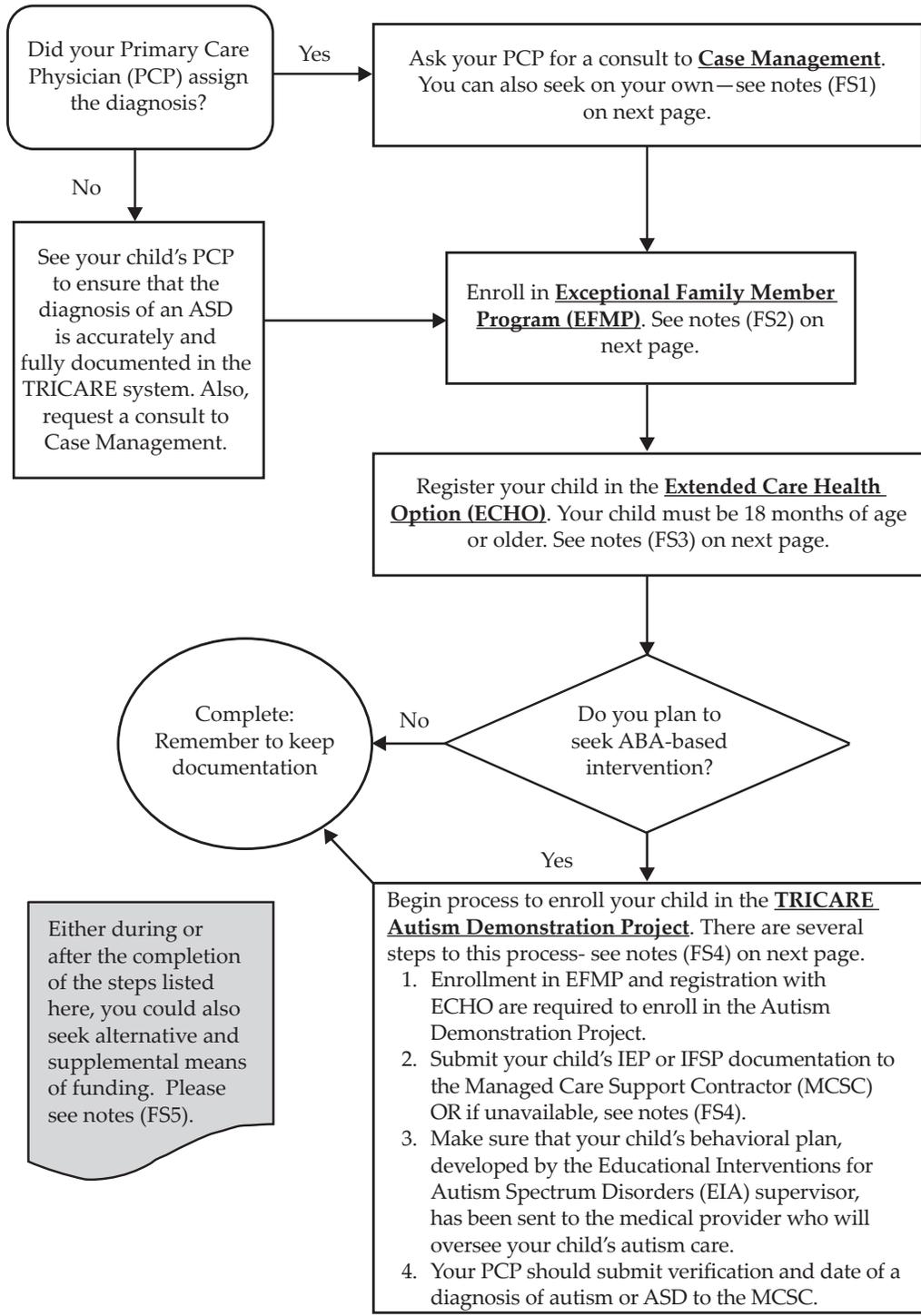


Alternatives

Notes for Navigating the Military Funding System

FS1	<p>Case Management: A Case Manager can be very helpful in guiding and/or assisting you in obtaining services for your child. The Case Manager should have a list of local support services for all families and for families with autism.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtaining Case Management: You may ask your child's PCP or ask your MTF Information Center/Customer Service Center how to contact the Case Management office. Case Managers may work for the MTF and be directly available or work for the Managed Care Support Contractor and be available by phone. 2. A Case Manager can also provide you with information about enrollment in various military funding programs.
FS2	<p>Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP): Contact the EFMP Office at your base, your child's PCP, or your Case Manager for information. EFMP is designed to help active-duty service members who have a family member with a medical condition that requires special medical, dental, mental health, developmental, or educational services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EFMP is mandatory for active-duty personnel in all services. 2. EFMP aids assignment of the active-duty member to locations where services needed by the family are available.
FS3	<p>Extended Care Health Option (ECHO): ECHO is a program specifically for active-duty family members who have specific mental and/or physical disabilities. ECHO provides financial assistance for services not available through the basic TRICARE program. It is a supplemental program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ECHO is a cost-share program in which the cost share is based on rank. 2. You may be required to complete a Public Facility Use Certification to provide verification that you are seeking services that are not offered publicly, as ECHO does not cover services that can be obtained publicly. 3. There are several requirements that must be met in order to qualify for ECHO. 4. Please find more information at: http://www.triwest.com/beneficiary/echo/default.aspx
FS4	<p>The TRICARE Autism Demonstration Project: The Autism Demonstration Project helps provide evidence-based, ABA-based services to children with autism, above what is already covered by TRICARE. It is a program exclusively for active-duty families who live in the United States. If you are interested in more information, please see the military healthcare section of this Guide.</p> <p>Note: If your child is home-schooled and your state does not require an IFSP or IEP, you must provide a letter from your child's PCP or specialized ASD provider verifying that the child's disability related to autism results in dysfunction severe enough to require special education and other support services.</p>
FS5	<p>Alternative Funding: There are several grant programs that exist for families with children who have autism. It may be worth searching the Internet for possible funding sources. Some families have collected money within the extended family to help fund services. This can be particularly helpful while you are waiting to get TRICARE funding in place. Some families have even held small fund-raising events (such as a golf event or walk) to obtain money for services. This should only be done as a supplement to TRICARE-based funding.</p>

Navigating the Military Funding System



Time Passing (Please remember to start the other algorithms when you begin this)

Establishing Services

