

TABLE 1.—MONTHLY COST-SHARE BY MEMBER'S PAY GRADE—Continued

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| O-7 .....  | 100 |
| O-8 .....  | 150 |
| O-9 .....  | 200 |
| O-10 ..... | 250 |

(ii) The sponsor's cost-share shown in Table 1 in paragraph (g)(2)(i) will be applied to the first allowed ECHO charges in any given month. The Government's share will be paid, up to the maximum amount specified in paragraph (g)(3) of this section, for allowed charges after the sponsor's cost-share has been applied.

(iii) The provisions of 32 CFR 199.18(d)(1) and (e)(1) regarding elimination of copayments for active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime do not eliminate, reduce, or otherwise affect the sponsor's cost-share shown in Table 1 in paragraph (g)(2)(i).

(iv) The sponsor's cost-share shown in Table 1 in paragraph (g)(2)(i) does not accrue to the Basic Program's Catastrophic Loss Protection under 10 U.S.C. 1079(b)(5) as shown at 32 CFR 199.4(f)(10) and 199.18(f).

(3) *Government cost-share liability.*

(i) The total government share of the cost of all ECHO benefits, except for ECHO home health care, provided in a given month to a beneficiary may not exceed \$2,500 after application of the allowable payment methodology.

(ii) The total government share of the cost of authorized ECHO home health care provided in a month to a beneficiary may not exceed one-twelfth of the annual maximum Government cost-share as determined in this section.

(h) *Benefit payment.*

(1) *Transportation.* The allowable amount for transportation of an ECHO beneficiary is limited to the actual cost of the standard published fare plus any standard surcharge made to accommodate any person with a similar disability or to the actual cost of specialized medical transportation when non-specialized transport cannot accommodate the beneficiary's qualifying condition related needs, or when specialized transport is more economical than non-specialized transport. When transport is by private vehicle, the allowable amount is limited to the Federal government employee mileage reimbursement rate in effect on the date the transportation is provided.

(2) *Equipment.*

(i) The TRICARE allowable amount for durable equipment and durable medical equipment shall be calculated in the same manner as durable medical equipment allowable through section 199.4.

(ii) *Allocating equipment expense.*

The ECHO beneficiary (or sponsor or guardian acting on the beneficiary's behalf) may, only at the time of the request for authorization of equipment, specify how the allowable cost of the equipment is to be allocated as an ECHO benefit. The entire allowable cost of the authorized equipment may be allocated in the month of purchase provided the allowable cost does not exceed the ECHO maximum monthly benefit of \$2,500, or it may be prorated regardless of the allowable cost. Prorating permits the allowable cost of ECHO-authorized equipment to be allocated such that the amount allocated each month does not exceed the maximum monthly benefit.

(A) *Maximum period.* The maximum number of consecutive months during which the allowable cost may be prorated is the lesser of:

(1) The number of months calculated by dividing the allowable cost for the item by 2,500 and then doubling the resulting quotient, rounded off to the nearest whole number; or

(2) The number of months of expected useful life of the equipment for the requesting beneficiary, as determined by the Director, TRICARE Management Activity or designee.

(B) *Alternative allocation period.* The allowable equipment cost may be allocated monthly in any amount such that the maximum allowable monthly ECHO benefit of \$2,500, or the maximum period under (i), is not exceeded.

(C) *Authorization.*

(1) The amount allocated each month under (i) or (ii) will be separately authorized as an ECHO benefit.

(2) An item of durable equipment or durable medical equipment shall not be authorized when such authorization would allow concurrent ECHO cost-sharing of duplicate equipment, as defined in section 199.2, for the same beneficiary.

(D) *Cost-share.* A cost-share, as provided by (g) of this section, is required for each month in which a prorated amount is authorized.

(E) *Termination.* Prorated payments shall be terminated as of the first day of the month following the death of a beneficiary or as of the effective date of a beneficiary's loss of ECHO eligibility for any other reason.

(3) *For-profit institutional care provider.* Institutional care provided by a for-profit entity may be allowed only when the care for a specific ECHO beneficiary.

(i) is contracted for by a public facility as a part of a publicly funded long-term inpatient care program; and

(ii) is provided based upon the ECHO beneficiary's being eligible for the publicly funded program which has contracted for the care; and

(iii) is authorized by the public facility as a part of a publicly funded program;

(iv) would cause a cost-share liability in the absence of TRICARE eligibility; and

(v) produces an ECHO beneficiary cost-share liability that does not exceed the maximum charge by the provider to the public facility for the contracted level of care.

(i) *Other ECHO Requirements.*

(1) All provisions of this part, except the provisions of section 199.4 unless otherwise provided by this section, apply to the ECHO.

(2) *Registration.* Active duty sponsors must register potential ECHO eligible beneficiaries through the Director, TRICARE Management Activity or designee prior to receiving ECHO benefits. The Director, TRICARE Management Activity or designee will determine ECHO eligibility and update the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) accordingly. Sponsors must provide evidence of enrollment in their respective branch of services Exceptional Family Member Program at the time they register their family member(s) for the ECHO.

(3) *Benefit authorization.* All ECHO benefits require authorization by the Director, TRICARE Management Activity or designee prior to receipt of such benefits.

(i) *Documentation.* The sponsor shall provide such documentation as the Director, TRICARE Management Activity or designee requires as a prerequisite to authorizing ECHO benefits. Such documentation shall describe how the requested benefit will contribute to confirming, arresting, or reducing the disabling effects of the qualifying condition, including maintenance of function or prevention of further deterioration of function, of the beneficiary.

(ii) *Format.* An authorization issued by the Director, TRICARE Management Activity or designee shall specify such description, dates, amounts, requirements, limitations or information as necessary for exact identification of approved benefits and efficient adjudication of resulting claims.

(iii) *Valid period.* An authorization for ECHO benefits shall be valid until such time as the Director, TRICARE Management Activity or designee determines that the authorized services are no longer appropriate or required.

(iv) *Authorization waiver.* The Director, TRICARE Management