

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 18.17.1
TITLE: RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER (RTC) EDUCATIONAL COSTS

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a), 17.272(a) and 17.273

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(b)(1)(v)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 11, Section 12.1

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

August 3, 1988

II. POLICY

A. Services and supplies related to the provision of either regular or special education generally are not covered. Such exclusions apply whether a separate charge is made for education or whether it is included as part of an overall combined daily charge of an institution. In the latter instance, that portion of the overall combined daily charge related to education must be determined, based on the component, and deleted from the allowable costs of the education component, and deleted from the institution's charges before CHAMPVA benefits can be extended. The only exception is when appropriate education is not available from, or not payable by the local public school district in which the beneficiary was last enrolled.

B. It is the responsibility of the institution providing the care and the beneficiary/sponsor to obtain a Public Official Statement (POS).

C. Requests for payment of educational costs must be referred to the Director, CHAMPVA Center, (or designee), for determination of the applicability of CHAMPVA benefits. Authorization for the educational component of RTC care will be denied until a POS has been received from the school district as specified above.

D. A decision will be made as to whether the public official statement meets the exception for coverage under the program. If the coverage of educational services are approved, an authorization will be issued to the RTC.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

E. To qualify for reimbursement of educational costs in individual cases, the RTC shall comply with the application procedures established by the Director, CHAMPVA Center, (or designee). As part of its admission procedures, the RTC must counsel and assist the beneficiary and the beneficiary's family in the necessary procedures for assuring their rights to a free and appropriate public education. There must be documentation in the beneficiary's record to substantiate this intake procedure.

F. The RTC must document any reasons why an individual beneficiary cannot attend public educational facilities and why alternative educational arrangements have not been provided by the cognizant public entity. Upon request, the RTC should be able to produce a copy of all pertinent correspondence with state or local educational agencies.

G. If reimbursement of educational costs is approved for an individual beneficiary, such educational costs shall be shown separately from the RTC's daily costs on the claim. The amount allowed shall not exceed the RTC's most favorable rate to any other patient, agency, or organization for special or general education services whichever is appropriate.

H. The certification for educational services will be valid during the entire authorized residential treatment center stay; i.e., from admission through discharge or denial of continued stay authorized by the Director, CHAMPVA Center, (or designee), whichever occurs first. The following guidelines will be used in processing and payment of RTC educational services:

1. educational charges will be denied if there is no record of an education certification (authorization) on file;
2. adjustments will not be required for previously denied education charges when an education certification is received after the claim is processed unless it is specifically requested by the provider; and
3. when an authorization is received for continued length of stay and an education certification is on file, the system will be flagged to cover education charges for the entire length of authorized care so that when a subsequent claim is received from the RTC, previously denied charges will be automatically adjusted and paid.

I. If the RTC fails to request CHAMPVA approval of educational costs on an individual case, the amounts for educational costs will be disallowed.

END OF POLICY