



1925-2025
Legacy. Impact. Possibilities.

February 28, 2025

Regional Grievance Coordinator
Humana Military
8123 Datapoint Drive Suite 400
San Antonio, TX 78229

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to raise serious concerns that ASHA members across TRICARE's East region are experiencing, leading them to reduce or cease taking TRICARE patients and, in some cases, forcing clinics to close their doors.¹

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students.

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiology treatment, including hearing aids. SLPs identify, assess, and treat speech, language, cognitive, and swallowing disorders. Audiologists and SLPs are communication specialists who work with individuals across the lifespan to maximize functional independence, safety, and the ability to fully participate in their lives.

On February 12, ASHA began receiving messages from concerned providers sharing that they had not been paid by TRICARE for services delivered in 2025. In 10 days, over 125 providers have shared the following issues that are impacting their ability to continue treating TRICARE beneficiaries.

Non-Payment of Partial Payment for Services

Providers report that they have not been paid yet in 2025 or have received paper checks for \$0.00. Several providers report that they are owed tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid claims, making it difficult or impossible to pay their employees and overhead. One provider shared that they had to take a personal loan to make payroll and keep their business afloat while several others have had to reduce employees' hours or close their practices completely. Many have shared that they are no longer able to serve TRICARE beneficiaries because it is not financially feasible to do so. The few who have received some form of payment shared that only a portion of the claim was paid with no explanation of benefits or remittance advice provided. These payments came as paper checks as they were unable to set up an electronic funds transfer due to issues with the provider portal.

Provider Portal Problems

Providers report that the provider portal is frequently down, and they receive technical error messages when attempting to log in. If they are able to get in, all of their submitted claims are

marked as pending regardless of submission date. In addition, physicians are unable to get into the portal to submit referrals and/or prior authorizations as required.

Lack of Communication

Providers have tried for weeks to reach out and solve the above issues on their own via email, phone, messages to the Defense Health Agency, and even calls to their members of Congress. Providers are increasingly frustrated as emails go unanswered and phone hold times are over four hours. When they do speak to someone, they are given contradictory information on provider status, documentation needed, claims status, and portal problems.

These clinicians have been providing high-quality patient-centered care to TRICARE beneficiaries for years. They have faithfully served military families and have helped them hear, speak, eat, think, and communicate with their loved ones. Providers want to continue serving this population but need your help to address the above issues and make it financially feasible to do so.

We respectfully request a meeting as soon as possible to discuss solutions and determine if we can be of service in sharing information with our members, who are your providers. Please reach out to ASHA's Director of Health Care Policy, Value and Innovation, who handles TRICARE issues for the association, at rbowen@asha.org.

Sincerely,



A. B. Mayfield-Clarke, PhD, CCC-SLP
2025 ASHA President

¹ Littlehales, A. (2025, February 17). *Speech language pathologists impacted by TRICARE East claims change, reimbursement failures*. 13News Now. <https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/health/tricare-issue-reimbursement-kiggans-wittman-speech-pathologist/291-6cb65b06-cbca-443d-a337-4cca24cb95fc>