

Medicaid Autism Behavioral Health Treatment/Applied Behavior Analysis Services

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Administration



Medicaid Autism Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT), including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an informational bulletin on July 7, 2014 to clarify Medicaid coverage of services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit.
- Medicaid Autism Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT), including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), services in the State Plan Amendment (SPA) was approved by CMS and is effective January 1, 2016.

Medicaid Autism BHT/ABA

- All children, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), must receive EPSDT services that are designed to assure that children receive early detection and preventive care, in addition to medically necessary treatment services to correct or ameliorate any physical or behavioral conditions, so that health problems are averted or diagnosed and treated as early as possible.

Medicaid Autism BHT/ABA

- April 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015 Michigan Medicaid covered Applied Behavior Analysis services for children with ASD from age 18 months through 5 years of age under a 1915(i) state plan authority
- Effective January 1, 2016 Michigan Medicaid provides coverage of Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), for children under 21 years of age with ASD

Medicaid Autism BHT/ABA

- ABA is currently the only treatment modality covered under Behavioral Health Treatment

BHT = ABA



Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations

- Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation is a neurodevelopmental review of cognitive, behavioral, emotional, adaptive, and social functioning, and should include validated evaluation tools
- Based on the evaluation, the practitioner determines the child's diagnosis, recommends general ASD treatment interventions, and refers the child for a behavior assessment if ABA is recommended

Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations

- Evaluations are performed by a qualified licensed practitioner working within their scope of practice and who is qualified and experienced in diagnosing ASD
- Qualified licensed practitioner includes: physicians, psychologists, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, or clinical social workers with training, experience, or expertise in ASD and/or behavioral health

ABA Medical Necessity Criteria

- Medical necessity and recommendation for ABA is determined by a physician, or other licensed practitioner
- The child must demonstrate substantial functional impairment in social communication, patterns of behavior, and social interaction as evidenced by meeting criteria and require ABA services to address those areas

ABA Eligibility

- If the child already has a confirmed diagnosis of ASD
- Qualified licensed practitioner makes determination of medical necessity criteria and recommendation of ABA

ABA Services: Behavioral Assessment

- Behavior assessments must use a validated instrument and can include direct observational assessment, observation, record review, data collection, and analysis by a BCBA or other qualified provider
- The initial behavior skill assessment must include the current level of functioning of the child using a validated data collection method or behavioral outcome tool (i.e. ABLLS-R, VB-MAPP, AFLS)
- Other behavior assessments include function analysis and functional behavior assessments

ABA Services: Behavioral Intervention

- ABA services include a variety of behavioral interventions, which have been identified as evidence-based by nationally recognized research reviews and/or other nationally recognized scientific and clinical evidence



ABA Services: Behavioral Intervention

Behavioral intervention services include, but are not limited to, the following evidence-based interventions:

- Peer-mediated social skills training
 - Functional based interventions
 - Antecedent based intervention
 - Pivotal response training
 - Reinforcement systems
 - Self-management
 - Social narratives
 - Video modeling
 - Parent training
 - Prompting
 - Chaining

ABA Services: Behavioral Intervention

- Based on the behavioral plan of care which is adjusted over time based on data collected by the BCBA or other qualified provider, the provider selects and adapts one or more of these interventions, as appropriate for each individual

ABA Services: Service Level

Actual hours needed are determined by medical necessity, person centered planning, and interventions required in the behavioral plan of care

There is no minimum or maximum hour caps

- Focused Behavioral Intervention (FBI):
 - **15 hours or less per week**
- Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention (CBI):
 - **16 hours or more per week**

ABA Services: Monitoring & Evaluation

- BCBA and other qualified providers develop, monitor, and implement the behavioral plan of care, which is part of the individual's IPOS
- Also responsible for evaluation child's skill acquisition and response to treatment **every six months**
- Requires evidence of measurable and ongoing improvements in targeted behaviors
 - ABLLS-R, VB-MAPP, AFLS, etc. and
 - Other documented analysis (i.e. graphs)

ABA Services: Behavioral Observation & Direction

- Clinical direction and oversight provided by BCBA or other qualified provider to a lower level provider (i.e. Behavior Technician)
- Must be **face to face** observation and direction regarding developmental and behavioral techniques
- Provide real time response to intervention
- Informs any modifications needed to implementation to accomplish goals in the behavioral plan of care

Telepractice for ABA Services

- MDHHS Prior Authorization required
- Telepractice must be obtained through real-time interaction (face to face) between the child's physical location (patient site) and the provider's physical location (provider site).
- Available **ONLY** for parent training and behavioral observation & direction BHT/ABA services
- The patient site may be located within a center, clinic, patient's home, or any other established site deemed appropriate by the provider

ABA Service Provider Qualifications

- ABA services are highly specialized and require specific qualified providers that are available within PIHP/CMHSP provider networks
- ABA services must be provided under the direction of a BCBA, another appropriately qualified LP or LLP, or a Master's prepared Qualified Behavioral Health Professional (QBHP)

ABA Service Provider Qualifications

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA or BCBA-D)
- Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)
- Licensed Psychologist (LP)
- Limited Licensed Psychologist (LLP)
- Qualified Behavioral Health Professional (QBHP)
- Behavior Technician (BT)



MDHHS Autism Resources

- Michigan Autism Program Website
 - www.michigan.gov/autism

Autism: Awareness, Reform and Education

April is Autism Awareness Month

Search

About Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

CMH/PIHP Resource Map

Resources

Medicaid Autism BHT/ABA Services

Autism Insurance Legislation

Michigan ASD State Plan

Autism Council

Videos

Photo Gallery

Contact

Welcome to the Michigan Autism Program Website

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) established the Michigan Autism Program in 2013 as part of the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration to support the:

- Medicaid coverage of Behavioral Health Treatment, including Applied Behavior Analysis, services to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Michigan Autism Spectrum Disorders State Plan
- Autism Council
- Autism services provided throughout Michigan

It is our goal to be a leader and partner in the support of individuals with autism, their families/caregivers, and professionals servicing individuals with autism spectrum disorder to lead a quality and fulfilling life.

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley celebrates Autism Awareness (Acceptance) Month

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley celebrates Autism Awareness (Accept... →

MDHHS Autism Resources



**Autism:
Awareness,
Reform and Education**



**LIGHT IT
BLUE
MICHIGAN**

April is
Autism
Awareness
Month



About Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Resources

Medicaid & MICHild Autism Benefit

Autism Insurance Legislation

AUTISM INSURANCE REFORM / RESOURCES

Resources for Medicaid Behavioral Health Treatment and ABA Service Providers

- ABA encounter reporting- January 2016 
- MSA Bulletin 15-59 EPSDT Autism coverage 



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CMH/PIHP Resource Map

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Medicaid Autism BHT/ABA Services

[AUTISM INSURANCE REFORM](#) / [CMH/PIHP RESOURCE MAP](#)

Medicaid Autism Local Resources

If there is a concern a child is showing signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder and he/she is covered by Medicaid, please contact your primary care provider or your Community Mental Health Service Program (CMHSP) for assistance.

Click on a county for information on the local Autism coordinator.



www.michigan.gov/autism



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AUTISM INSURANCE REFORM / MEDICAID AUTISM BHT/ABA SERVICES

Kent County

Autism Benefit Coordinators



[Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plan \(PIHP\)](#)

PIHP Region 3, Lakeshore Regional Partners

Name	Email	Phone
Kristi Drooger	kristid@lsre.org	231-332-3845

[Community Mental Health \(CMH\)](#)

Network 180

Name	Email	Phone
Angie Watkins	angie.watkins@network180.org	616-336-3909

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