

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
Medicaid Advisory Committee
October 27, 2016

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ABA Service Overview

- CMS issued a letter reminding states of the EPSDT mandate to provide medically necessary services under the EPSDT Medicaid benefit for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) up to age 21
 - State Medicaid Director letter July 2014
- 24 states are providing ABA through their Medicaid Programs
- Regulations for ABA services in Maryland will be effective on November 7th
 - Program will be implemented on January 1, 2017
 - ABA provider enrollment will begin in November 2016

What is ABA?

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is an evidence-based treatment for individuals with ASD that includes many different techniques to:
 - Increase useful or desired behaviors such as communication and social skills
 - Reduce behaviors that may interfere with learning or behaviors that may be harmful

Role of Beacon Health Options

- Beacon Health Options (Beacon) is the Administrative Services Organization (ASO) for the Behavioral Health carve out
- For ABA, Beacon will provide clinical, operational and provider assistance and expertise
 - Clinical: Intake, Screening and Referral, Peer to Peer Case Management and Preauthorization of all Services
 - Operational: Coordination of Care, Provider Enrollment and Quality Assurance
 - Provider: Provider Outreach, Training and Development of Educational Materials for Providers on Standards of Care

ABA Eligibility

- Children and adolescents up to age 21
- Enrolled in Medicaid
- Live in the community
- Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) using a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation completed by a qualified health care professional with training and experience to diagnose ASD
 - Pediatrician
 - Developmental pediatrician
 - Pediatric neurologist
 - Child psychiatrist
 - Clinical psychologist
 - Neuropsychologist
 - Nurse Practitioner

ABA Services

- ABA Assessment and Reassessment
- ABA Therapy
 - Individual face-to-face therapy
 - Group therapy
 - Social skills group therapy
- ABA Parent Training
 - Individual parent training
 - Multiple-family group training

ABA Providers

- ABA services will be administered by a:
 - Psychologist
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctorate (BCBA-D)
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
 - Masters level
 - Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)
 - Bachelors level
 - Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)
 - Behavior Technician (BT)
 - Must be registered by January 1, 2019
 - 18 years old, High school graduate or GED equivalence

Which ABA Providers Can Provide Each Service?

- ABA Assessment
 - BCBA-D, BCBA, Psychologist
- ABA Therapy
 - Individual face to face therapy
 - BCBA-D, BCBA, Psychologist, BCaBA, RBT, and BT
 - Group therapy
 - BCBA-D, BCBA, Psychologist, BCaBA, RBT, and BT
 - Social skills group therapy
 - BCBA-D, BCBA, and Psychologist
- ABA Parent Training
 - Individual parent training
 - BCBA-D, BCBA, Psychologist , and BCaBA
 - Multiple family-group training
 - BCBA-D, BCBA, and Psychologist

ABA Services

- Must be provided in home and community based settings
- Must be reassessed every 180 days
- Will be continued until no longer medically necessary because:
 - long-term treatment goals and objectives are achieved; or
 - the participant is not demonstrating progress towards treatment goals and objectives and measurable functional improvement is no longer expected.

Currently...

- DHMH and Beacon weekly calls in 3 areas:
 - Clinical
 - Operational
 - IT/Claims
- Finalizing provider applications (group and individual) and provider enrollment process
- Working on educational materials
- Working on updating DHMH website

For More Information

- Questions about ABA services can be submitted via e-mail to:

Dhmfh.aba@maryland.gov