Kansas Guidelines
Family Adjustment Counseling (Autism Waiver Services)

**Definition**
Counseling can be provided to the family members of a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to guide and help them cope with the child’s illness, the related stress that accompanies the initial understanding of the diagnosis and the ongoing, daily care required by the child with an ASD. Enabling the family to manage this stress improves the likelihood that the child with the disorder will continue to be cared for at home, thereby preventing premature and otherwise unnecessary institutionalization. When acceptance of the disorder is achieved, the family is better prepared to support the child on an ongoing basis. Services can be provided on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting.

**Components**
1. Maintain an ongoing collaborative relationship with the Autism Specialist beginning at the time of the referral
2. Offer the family a mechanism for expressing emotions associated with the comprehension of the disorder
3. Allow families to ask questions about the disorder in a safe and supporting environment
4. Provide the Autism Specialist with a treatment plan, including the frequency, length and duration of sessions

**Provider Qualifications**
- Be a Medicaid-enrolled provider
- Be a Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) by the state of Kansas
- Successfully pass background checks with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Nurse Aid Registry, and a motor vehicle screen

**Eligibility Criteria**
- No eligibility criteria listed

**Limitations/Exclusions**
- Persons with family relationships to the beneficiary cannot provide family adjustment counseling services.
- The maximum allowable units per child are 48 units per calendar year. This limit applies whether it is individually or group rate or a combination of individual and group services.
- Services must be recommended by an Autism Specialist and are subject to prior approval through the plan of care process.
- Services must be intended to achieve the goals or objectives identified in the child’s Individualized Behavioral Program/Plan of Care (IBP/POC).
- A group setting cannot consist of more than three families.
- The group membership requirement for family adjustment counseling is having a family member with a diagnosis of ASD.
- Families must agree to a group setting.
- No more than one Family Adjustment Counselor may be paid for services at any given time of day.

All member care and related decisions are the sole responsibility of the provider. This information does not dictate nor control your clinical decisions regarding the appropriate care of members. Guidelines are subject to state regulations, benefits and formularies.

Clinical Guidelines 2012
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## Allowed Modes(s) of Delivery

- Individual
- Group
- Onsite
- Offsite

## Additional Service Criteria

The Family Adjustment Counselor is expected to adhere to federal and state regulations regarding reporting of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation per K.S.A. 38-2223.

To bill for Family Adjustment Counseling, submit the following procedure codes:

- S9482 – Individual
- S9482 HQ – Adult Group

Family Adjustment Billing:

- The Family Adjustment Counseling service is billed by units of service. A unit equals 15 minutes. The rate for an individual is per unit per family.
- Services are billed by the date of services.
- Written documentation is required for services provided and billed to Amerigroup Kansas.

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