



Nathan Deal, Governor

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner

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Dear Providers:

Effective January 1, 2018, Georgia's Medicaid program began providing coverage for adaptive behavioral services (ABS) for individuals under age 21 with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

In order to become an ABS qualified health care provider (QHCP), the individual must enroll in the Georgia Medicaid program and hold one or more of the following:

- a current and valid license to practice Medicine in Georgia,
- a current and valid license as a Psychologist, as required under Georgia Code Chapter 39 as amended, or,
- a valid Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Certification as a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst-Doctoral Level (BCBA-D), or Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA).

The following individuals may act as ABS direct care providers under the supervision of the QHCP:

- a Board Certified Assistant Behavioral Analyst (BCaBA)
- a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)

The QHCP and direct care provider must attest to having at least one (1) year of experience in serving youth with ASD. The QHCP may supervise up to six (6) direct care providers at any point in time. Such supervision must be performed in accordance with the supervision guidelines of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board and DCH's Autism Spectrum Disorder Services policy manual.

The QHCP (physicians, psychologists, BCBA-D, and BCBA's) may enroll as an independent provider or as a provider associated with a facility. Both independent and facility associated providers must indicate through attestation the direct care provider for whom they are providing supervision.

Pursuant to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, coverage is provided for an array of assessment and treatment services according to severity and based on medical necessity. Members must have a documented DSM-V diagnosis of ASD from a licensed physician or psychologist or other licensed professional as designated by the Medical Composite Board in order to perform a behavioral assessment and develop a resulting Plan of Care to be eligible for ABS.

The Georgia Department of Public Health's Babies Can't Wait (BCW) Program provides evaluation, assessment and treatment services to children from birth to three years of age who are determined eligible for the program. BCW will be expanding its scope of services to include the provision of autism related services and will be actively recruiting contract providers who may be interested in providing these services beginning the first quarter of 2018. For more information, please contact bcw.contracts@dph.ga.gov or visit the BCW website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/bcw-providers>.

For additional information on how to enroll as an ABS QHCP along with the complete policy manual, visit Georgia Medicaid's autism website at <https://dch.georgia.gov/autism-spectrum-disorder>.

Thank you.

Frequently Asked Questions for Providers

Effective January 1, 2018, Georgia's Medicaid program will begin providing coverage for adaptive behavioral services (ABS) for individuals under age 21 with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Pursuant to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, coverage is provided for an array of assessment and treatment services according to severity and based on medical necessity. Members must have a documented DSM-V diagnosis of ASD from a licensed physician or psychologist or other licensed professional as designated by the Medical Composite Board in order to perform a behavioral assessment and develop a resulting Plan of Care to be eligible for ABS.

1. How do I become a provider?

- A licensed physician, licensed psychologist, Board Certified Behavioral Analyst-Doctoral Level (BCBA-D), or Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) may apply via www.mmis.georgia.gov. The individual must attest to having at least one year of experience serving youth with ASD and document any other direct care professionals for whom he or she will provide supervision.

2. Who is able to diagnose a child with ASD?

- A licensed physician or psychologist or other licensed professional as designated by the Medical Composite Board in order to perform a behavioral assessment and develop a resulting Plan of Care to be eligible for ABS must provide an ASD diagnosis in accordance with the DSM-V.

3. Who is able to conduct an initial assessment?

- An initial assessment may be conducted by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, BCBA-D, or a BCBA.

4. Who is able to conduct a follow-up assessment?

- A follow-up assessment may be conducted by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, BCBA-D, BCBA, Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA), and/or a registered behavioral technician (RBT) who meets the minimum one year of required experience.

5. Who can provide treatment?

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- Treatment for ASD can be provided by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, BCBA-D, BCBA, BCaBA, and/or RBT who meets the minimum one year of required experience.

6. Who can provide treatment supervision?

- Supervision may be provided by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, BCBA-D, or BCBA who is enrolled as a provider with the Georgia Medicaid program.

7. What is the treatment/supervision model?

- Licensed physicians, licensed psychologists, BCBA-D's, and BCBA's may apply to be providers with the Georgia Medicaid program. These providers may supervise up to six (6) certified Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs) and/or Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) at any point in time.

8. Where is the policy manual?

- The policy manual is located on the Georgia Medicaid program's autism services website at <https://dch.georgia.gov/autism-spectrum-disorder>.

9. Where do I find billing codes?

- The billing codes are found in the policy manual for Autism Spectrum Services which is located on the Georgia Medicaid program's autism services website at <https://dch.georgia.gov/autism-spectrum-disorder>.

10. How do I enroll to provide ASD services?

- An individual practitioner must become a Medicaid provider and complete the attestation form located in the GAMMIS Web Portal at www.mmis.georgia.gov. View the video on how to enroll as an ASD service provider which is located on the Georgia Medicaid program's autism services website for detailed screen shots of the application process.

11. What if I am already an enrolled provider, then what do I need to do?

- If an individual is already an enrolled Medicaid provider, the individual must still complete an attestation form verifying the one year of experience serving youth with ASD and verifying what practitioners they will supervise. This information can be found in the GAMMIS Web Portal at www.mmis.georgia.gov.

12. What does it mean to attest?

- A provider must attest (declare or certify formally) that he or she has a minimum of 1 year, full-time verifiable experience in the delivery of direct care to youth diagnosed with ASD. Eligible supervisors must also attest that they are responsible for the work performed by the practitioners that they are supervising

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and they too meet the minimum of minimum of 1 year, full-time verifiable experience in the delivery of direct care to youth diagnosed with ASD.

13. Can BCaBAs and RBTs enroll as providers?

- No. Only licensed physicians, licensed psychologists, BCBA-D's, and BCBA's may enroll as providers.

14. What is the authorization period for services?

- ABS are authorized in six month increments. Every six months thereafter, a follow-up assessment must take place to assess the need for additional services.

15. What are the steps to providing ASD treatment?

- A member must have an ASD diagnosis based on the DSM-V. Prior authorization is required for all ASD services, initial and follow-up assessments and ABS treatment.

16. What if I am a provider for the Babies Can't Wait program?

- The Georgia Department of Public Health's Babies Can't Wait (BCW) Program provides evaluation, assessment and treatment services to children from birth to three years of age who are determined eligible for the program. BCW will be expanding its scope of services to include the provision of autism related services and will be actively recruiting contract providers who may be interested in providing these services beginning the first quarter of 2018. For more information, please contact bcw.contracts@dph.ga.gov or visit the BCW website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/bcw-providers>.