

Developmental Therapy services

Summary of change: Effective with dates of service on and after September 1, 2015, Amerigroup Kansas, Inc. will cover developmental physical therapy, developmental occupational therapy and developmental speech therapy services for children less than 21 years of age. Individuals can receive developmental therapy services to treat autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), birth defects, and other developmental delays in any appropriate community setting from any qualified provider with prior authorization (PA) and medical necessity documentation.

★ **What this means to you:** Developmental therapy services that are recommended as a result of an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) for children younger than 21 years for the treatment of birth defects and development delays, including ASD, will need to be accompanied by a physician's order/recommendation and prior authorized (PA). PA requires that the services be documented within the provider's treatment plan. Requests will be reviewed for medical necessity using clinical criteria. Periodic reevaluations and assessments are required at least every six (6) months and continuous improvement must be shown in order to qualify for continued treatment.

What is the impact of this change?

Coverage will be available for the diagnosis and treatment of ASD. Diagnosis must be established using an appropriate assessment instrument and performed by an appropriately licensed medical provider. An acceptable ICD-9 (for dates of service through 9/30/15) or ICD-10 (for dates of service 10/1/15 and after) diagnosis will be required on the treatment plan. Diagnoses codes 780.99 and 783.40 will not be accepted as primary diagnosis codes.

Developmental therapy services include developmental physical therapy, developmental occupational therapy and developmental speech/language pathology services as documented in a comprehensive treatment plan. A treatment plan is a plan submitted by a provider or group of providers, signed by both the provider(s) and parent(s)/caregiver(s), that include:

- The type of therapy to be administered and methods of intervention.
- The goals: including specific problems or behaviors requiring treatment, frequency of services to be provided, frequency of parent or caregiver participation at therapy sessions, description of supervision, periodic measures for the therapy, and frequency at which goals will be reviewed and updated.
- Who will administer the therapy.
- The patient's current ability to perform the desired results of therapy.

PA information

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What if I need assistance?

If you have questions, please contact your local Provider Relations representative or call our Provider Services team at 1-800-454-3730.