

To: Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Providers

Re: 2023 ABA Benefit Changes

Date: December 22, 2022

Medicaid Benefit

MetroPlusHealth has been ramping up for the expansion of Applied Behavior Analysis Services to eligible Medicaid members diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Service will become available January 1, 2023, for those members under 21 years of age.

Eligibility Requirements for ABA therapy

- Must have an autism or Rett's diagnosis, made by a NYS qualified healthcare provider (including psychiatrists and developmental/behavioral pediatricians, clinical psychologist)
- Must provide a diagnostic comprehensive autism evaluation that preceded the diagnosis, performed by a NYS licensed clinician. The evaluation should be conducted as outlined in the New York State Department of Health, Clinical Practice Guideline on Assessment, and Intervention Services for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) 2017 Update.

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/20152.pdf>

- Obtain a Medicaid referral from PCP (updated every 2 years)

How to obtain services

- Find a Licensed Behavior Analyst provider on the M+ directory
- Call MetroPlusHealth 1-800-303-9629

What you need to submit

- A universal request form requesting ABA
- A diagnostic comprehensive autism evaluation
- A primary care referral

Where to submit authorization requests

ABA Authorization requests and clinical information may be submitted to MetroPlus CSS via email or fax:

- ✓ **Email:** MetropolisABA@Metroplus.org
- ✓ **Fax:** (212) 908-5182

For additional guidance, please access this link for more information from New York State: <https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/ABA/index.aspx>

Qualified Health Plan

The Department of Health and Human Services' Risk Adjustment Data Validation Program determines a set of health conditions considered Lifelong Permanent Conditions of which autistic disorders is included. A Lifelong Permanent Condition must be validated and authenticated each benefit year.

Validation and authentication must be provided by a physician, nurse practitioner, licensed clinical social worker, Ph.D. or Psy.D. psychologist each calendar year. The condition must be evaluated and, if present, submitted as an active diagnosis code on a claim. The condition must also be listed in the medical record for the corresponding encounter in any of the following sections:

- Past Medical History
- Problem Lists
- Progress Notes
- Assessment and Plan
- History of Present Illness
- Assessments

Please be advised that Licensed Behavioral Analysts do not meet the practitioner level to authenticate and validate an autism disorder diagnosis. Therefore, ABA providers should coordinate with the member's treatment team to assure their diagnosis is authenticated and validated annually.