



ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT OHIO MARKETPLACE

Policy Name	Policy Number	Date Effective
Applied Behavior Analysis for Autism Spectrum Disorder	AD-1058	06/01/2021-12/31/2021
Policy Type		
Medical	ADMINISTRATIVE	Pharmacy
		Reimbursement

Administrative Policy Statements prepared by CareSource and its affiliates are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

Administrative Policy Statements prepared by CareSource and its affiliates do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Administrative Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Administrative Policy Statement and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

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A. Subject

Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorder

B. Background

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can vary widely in severity and symptoms, depending on the developmental level and chronological age of the patient. ASD is often defined by specific impairments that affect socialization, communication, and stereotyped (repetitive) behavior. Children with autism spectrum disorders have pervasive clinically significant deficits which are present in early childhood in areas such as intellectual functioning, language, social communication and interactions, as well as restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests and activities.

There is currently no cure for ASD, nor is there any one single treatment for the disorder. Individuals with ASD may be managed through a combination of therapies, including behavioral, cognitive, pharmacological, and educational interventions. The goal of treatment for members with ASD is to minimize the severity of ASD symptoms, maximize learning, facilitate social integration, and improve quality of life for both the members and their families/caregivers.

C. Definitions

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder** - (ASD) Means any of the following pervasive developmental disorders as defined by the most recent version of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (American Psychiatric Association): Autism; Asperger's Disorder; or other condition that is specifically categorized as a pervasive developmental disorder in the *Manual*.
- **Applied behavior analysis** - (ABA) A preventive service for ASD.
- **BCaBA** - Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB) certified assistant behavior analyst undergraduate level.
- **BCBA** - BACB certified behavior analyst graduate level.
- **BCBA-D** - BACB certified behavior analyst doctoral level.
- **RBT** - BACB Registered Behavioral Technician.
- **Supervision** - All supervisory activities as well as supervisor and supervisee responsibilities will be in accordance with the board from which the practitioner received a license.
 - Services delivered by a RBT must be supervised by a qualified RBT supervisor.
 - Services delivered by a BCaBA must be supervised by a BCBA, BCBA-D or a licensed/ registered psychologist certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology who has tested in ABA.
 - A registered behavior technician (RBT), certified by the national behavior analyst certification board (BACB), may provide ABA under the supervision of an independent practitioner. In order to provide services, they have to enroll in the Marketplace program and affiliate with the organization under which they are employed or contracted.



- **RBT supervision** - Ongoing supervision must be at a minimum of 5% of the hours spent providing behavior-analytic services per month¹. This includes a minimum of 2 face-to-face contacts per month.

D. Policy

- I. Prior Authorization (PA) is required for all ABA services:
 - A. Baseline then every 6 months thereafter or sooner if clinically necessary.
 - B. PA must be submitted with appropriate documentation as indicated in the medical policy.
- II. An ASD diagnosis is required in order for services to be reviewed for approval.
- III. Limitations
 - A. A Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) for a CPT code is the maximum units of service that a provider can report for one member on one date of service.
 1. Maximum units allowed per CPT*:

CPT	Max unit allowed
97151	32
97152	8
97153	32
97154	12
97155	24
97156	16
97157	16
97158	16
0362T	8
0373T	32

*If CMS updates the MUE list, the update will take precedence over the MUEs in this policy.

- B. Each RBT must obtain ongoing supervision for a minimum of 5% of the hours spent providing behavior-analytic services per month.
- C. The treatment codes are based on daily total units of service in 15 minute increments. A unit of time is attained when the mid-point is passed.
 1. Time interval examples:

Units	Number of minutes
1 unit	≥8 minutes through 22 minutes
2 units	≥23 minutes through 37 minutes
3 units	≥38 minutes through 52 minutes
4 units	≥53 minutes through 67 minutes
5 units	≥68 minutes through 82 minutes

¹ www.bacb.com



6 units	≥83 minutes through 97 minutes
7 units	≥98 minutes through 112 minutes
8 units	≥113 minutes through 127 minutes

E. Conditions of Coverage

Payments may be subject to limitations and/or qualifications and will be determined when the claim is received for processing.

F. Related Policies/Rules

Applied Behavior Analysis for Autism Spectrum Disorder Medical policy
 Evidence of Coverage and Health Insurance Contract Ohio

G. Review/Revision History

DATES		ACTION
Date Issued	11/29/2018	
Date Revised	04/12/2019 01/27/2020 02/02/2021	Removed U3 & U5 modifiers Revised definitions, clarified PA requirements, added ASD diagnosis as primary, added specificity to reimbursement, updated limitations, added MUE, added time intervals, added specificity to concurrent billing Updated definitions, Removed transition ABA therapy, Removed codes. Changed from PY policy. Removed coding portions in policy
Date Effective	06/01/2021	
Date Archived	12/31/2021	This Policy is no longer active and has been archived. Please note that there could be other Policies that may have some of the same rules incorporated and CareSource reserves the right to follow CMS/State/NCCI guidelines without a formal documented Policy

H. References

1. Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (2018, October 8). *Adaptive Behavior Assessment and Treatment Code Conversion Table*. Retrieved December 22, 2020 from www.bacb.com
2. American Medical Association. (2018). *Coding Update: Reporting Adaptive Behavior Assessment and Treatment Services in 2019*. CPT Assistant, 28(11).
3. The Council of Autism Service Providers. (2020). *Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Practice Guidelines for Healthcare Funders and Managers*. Retrieved on December 22, 2020 from www.casproviders.org
4. Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (2019, February). Clarifications Regarding Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. (2nd ed.). Retrieved December 22, 2020 from www.bacb.com
The Administrative Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the Administrative Policy Statement Policy and is approved.