Medicaid Autism
Applied Behavior Analysis Services

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
MDHHS Autism Program

- Manage the Medicaid/MI Child Autism Benefit.
- Liaison to external stakeholders including Michigan Departments, advocacy organizations and universities
- Support families and agencies with challenges with services
- Early Intervention Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)/ Developmental Disability (DD) Pilot
MDHHS Autism Program

• Manage MDHHS autism contracts.
  ▫ Autism Alliance of Michigan
  ▫ 6 Michigan Universities

• Coordinate and provide state and regional autism trainings for providers, specialty organizations and conferences

• Provide support to the Autism Council
Medicaid Autism Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Services

- Medicaid Autism Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), services in the State Plan Amendment (SPA) was approved by CMS and is effective January 1, 2016.
Medicaid Autism ABA

- All children, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), must receive EPSDT services that are designed to assure that children receive early detection and preventive care, in addition to medically necessary treatment services to correct or ameliorate any physical or behavioral conditions, so that health problems are averted or diagnosed and treated as early as possible.
Medicaid Autism ABA

- April 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015 Michigan Medicaid covered Applied Behavior Analysis services for children with ASD from age 18 months through 5 years of age under a 1915(i) state plan authority

- Effective January 1, 2016 Michigan Medicaid provides coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), for children under 21 years of age with ASD
Medicaid Autism ABA

ABA is currently the only treatment modality covered under Behavioral Health Treatment

ABA
Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations

• Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation is a neurodevelopmental review of cognitive, behavioral, emotional, adaptive, and social functioning, and should include validated evaluation tools.

• Based on the evaluation, the practitioner determines the child’s diagnosis, recommends general ASD treatment interventions, and refers the child for a behavior assessment.
ABA Medical Necessity Criteria

- Medical necessity and recommendation for ABA is determined by a physician, or other licensed practitioner.

- The child must demonstrate substantial functional impairment in social communication, patterns of behavior, and social interaction as evidenced by meeting criteria and require ABA services to address those areas.
ABA Eligibility

• If the child already has a confirmed diagnosis of ASD

• Qualified licensed practitioner makes determination of medical necessity criteria and recommendation of ABA
ABA Services: Behavioral Intervention

Behavioral intervention services include, but are not limited to, the following evidence-based interventions:

- Peer-mediated social skills training
- Functional based interventions
- Antecedent based intervention
  - Pivotal response training
  - Reinforcement systems
  - Self-management
  - Social narratives
  - Video modeling
  - Parent training
  - Prompting
  - Chaining
ABA Services: Behavioral Intervention

- Based on the behavioral plan of care which is adjusted over time based on data collected by the BCBA or other qualified provider, the provider selects and adapts one or more of these interventions, as appropriate for each individual...
BABA Services: Service Level

Actual hours needed are determined by medical necessity, person centered planning, and interventions required in the behavioral plan of care. There is no minimum or maximum hour caps.

- Focused Behavioral Intervention:
  - average of **5-15 hours** per week

- Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention:
  - average of **16-25 hours** per week
ABA Services: Monitoring & Evaluation

- BCBA and other qualified providers develop, monitor, and implement the behavioral plan of care, which is part of the individual’s IPOS

- Also responsible for evaluation child’s skill acquisition and response to treatment every six months

- Requires evidence of measurable and ongoing improvements in targeted behaviors
  - ABLLS-R, VB-MAPP, AFLS, etc. and
  - Other documented analysis (i.e. graphs)
ABA Services: Behavioral Observation & Direction

• Clinical direction and oversight provided by BCBA or other qualified provider to a lower level provider (i.e. Behavior Technician)

• Must be **face to face** observation and direction regarding developmental and behavioral techniques

• Provide real time response to intervention

• Informs any modifications needed to implementation to accomplish goals in the behavioral plan of care
Telepractice for ABA Services

- Telepractice must be obtained through real-time interaction (face to face) between the child’s physical location (patient site) and the provider's physical location (provider site).

- Available **ONLY** for parent training and behavioral observation & direction ABA services

- The patient site may be located within a center, clinic, patient’s home, or any other established site deemed appropriate by the provider
ABA Service Provider Qualifications

- ABA services are highly specialized and require specific qualified providers that are available within PIHP/CMHSP provider networks.

- ABA services must be provided under the direction of a BCBA, another appropriately qualified LP or LLP, or a Master’s prepared Qualified Behavioral Health Professional (QBHP).
ABA Service Provider Qualifications

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA or BCBA-D)
- Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)
- Licensed Psychologist (LP)
- Limited Licensed Psychologist (LLP)
- Qualified Behavioral Health Professional (QBHP)
- Behavior Technician (BT)
ABA And Schools

• BHT Service Level

ABA services ......These supports may serve to reinforce skills or lessons taught in school, therapy, or other settings, but are not intended to supplant services provided in school or other settings, or to be provided when the child would typically be in school but for the parent’s/guardian’s choice to home-school their child.
ABA And Schools

• Eligibility requirement:

Coordination with the school and/or early intervention program is critical. Collaboration between school and community providers is needed to coordinate treatment and to prevent duplication of services. This collaboration may take the form of phone calls, written communication logs, participation in team meetings (i.e., Individual Education Plan/Individual Family Service Plan [IEP/IFSP], Individual Plan of Service [IPOS], etc.).
Medicaid Autism ABA

• As of January 12, 2016:
  ▫ 1,507 individuals approved for ABA
  ▫ 80 individuals are over the age of 6
  ▫ 442 children aged off since April 1, 2013

• Priorities
  ▫ Increase collaboration and knowledge of ABA services
  ▫ Increase ABA service providers
  ▫ Enhance the skills of clinicians evaluating the new age range
Michigan Autism Successes

- **$9M** in autism contracts in 2015.
- **$2.5M** in autism contracts in 2016.
- Michigan now has **8 universities** offering ABA degree programs up from 2 in 2012.
MDHHS Autism Resources

- Michigan Autism Program Website
  - www.michigan.gov/autism
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Thank you for all the educational efforts in Michigan!