

NORTHCARE NETWORK

POLICY TITLE: Autism Benefit	CATEGORY: Clinical Practices	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/10/14	BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 12/10/14	
REVIEW DATE: New Policy – 12/3/14	REVISION(S) TO POLICY STATEMENT: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	OTHER REVISION(S): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: Clinical Practices Coordinator	CEO APPROVAL DATE: 12/3/14 William Slavin, CEO	

APPLIES TO

NorthCare Network Personnel
NorthCare Network Providers

POLICY

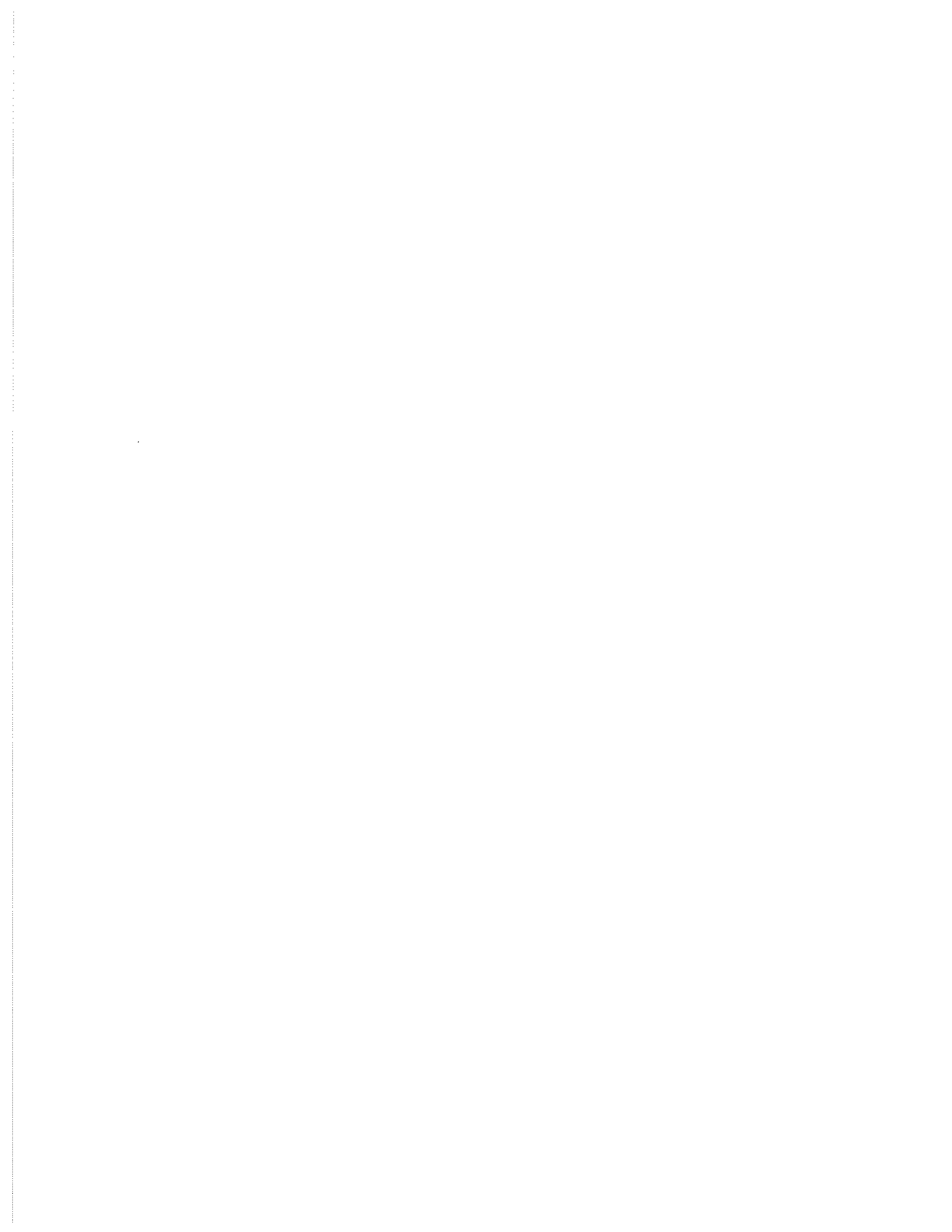
NorthCare Network manages and monitors Applied Behavioral Analysis services outlined in the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual across the Upper Peninsula for those children and families that meet eligibility criteria established by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). NorthCare Network is responsible for monitoring the provider network to assure the training and access to a qualified workforce of professionals and behavioral aides. NorthCare Network provides technical support to assure meeting the quality improvements required per Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Further, NorthCare Network assures that families who are going to receive services are provided information as to choice of providers and the reporting of abuse and neglect in the pre-planning process of those services.

PURPOSE

NorthCare Network assures coordination of benefits and compliance with standards to meet the demands of new professional qualifications and the extensive service array outlined in the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment to authorize Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services in Michigan.

DEFINITIONS

1. ***Autism spectrum disorders (ASD)*** refers to a group of developmental disabilities that can cause substantial impairments in a person's behaviors and social and communication skills. Signs of these impairments usually occur before a child turns three years old, although children are often diagnosed between ages three and five.
2. ***Applied Behavioral Analysis Services (ABA)*** is a behavioral therapy for ASD that focuses on learning and motivation through several methods, such as positive reinforcement, to improve communication and social interactions and reduce repetitive behaviors. ABA, which has been recognized for its incorporation of multiple evidence-based treatment strategies by the National Standards Project may be provided by or supervised by a certified behavior analyst.
3. ***Behavior Analyst Certification Board*** is the national certification board that issues the certification required by MDCH for the professional services that require a Board



Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) and/ or a Board Certified Assistant Behavioral Analyst (BCaBA).

4. **Applied Behavioral Analyst Aide** is the title for the paraprofessional who directs the specific training sessions of the behavioral plan. In Michigan, they are currently required to complete a training program with specific components within 90 days of beginning to work as an ABA aide. Currently MDCH does not require them to be formally certified but the Behavior Analyst Certification Board does have a certification level for Behavior Technicians (aka ABA aides).
5. **Levels of Intensity in ABA services:**
 - **Early Intensive Behavioral Interventions (EIBI)** –average number of service hours is 10-20 per week. EIBI is a comprehensive behavior package that is developed for a child between the ages of 18months through five years to address skill deficits, behavioral issues, and improve overall functioning. This level of intervention is available to any child who has an Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) score that falls in the Autism range. This intensive treatment involves training the parent/caregivers to continue the behavioral interventions in the home environment.
 - **Applied Behavioral Interventions (ABI)** average number of service hours is 5-15 per week. ABI includes behavioral interventions provided with a focal approach toward targeted goal(s). Interventions include those from the established treatment list from the National Standards Report (2009) and are directed toward increasing functional communication, independent self-care tasks, receptive language, expressive language, play behaviors, social skills, imitation, and/or any additional behaviors that will enable the child to more readily integrate with typically developing peers. This level of intervention is available to any child with ASD between the ages of eighteen (18) months through five (5) years who is not receiving EIBI services and has an ADOS score that falls in the Autism or ASD range.

REFERENCES

- Michigan 1915(i) State Plan Amendment, Applied Behavioral Analysis(ABA), effective April 1, 2013
- Michigan Medicaid Manual , Mental Health and Substance Treatment Chapter, current version
- Autism Spectrum Disorder in Michigan, Issue Brief October 2014, Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation
- NorthCare Network Policies:
 - Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - Credentialing & Oversight
 - Credentialing-Privileging

HISTORY

REVISION DATE: NEW POLICY – 1/1/15

REVIEW DATE: 12/3/14

CEO APPROVAL DATE: 12/3/14

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 12/10/14



PROCEDURES

A. Coordination of Care -

1. There are many layers of coordination required in this benefit:
 - Required electronic reporting between MDCH and the PIHP to submit candidates for MDCH determination of eligibility
 - Coordination between the PIHP, Member CMHSPs, community physical health providers and other partners such as Early On for referrals
 - Coordination between the local independent assessors and the treatment planning team at the Member CMHSP
 - Coordination with local utilization management staff to assure the independence of utilization management decisions
 - And coordination of at least two different levels of supervision among the treatment team working with an individual and their family.
2. To assure all standards are met, NorthCare Network adopts as the guiding documents for implementation and monitoring ABA services:
 - The 1915(i) State Plan Amendment effective April 1, 2013 for demonstrating freedom from conflict of interests among providers, service delivery and quality improvement strategies
 - Applied Behavioral Analysis services outlined in the current version of the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

B. NorthCare Network Responsibilities –

1. NorthCare Network Central Access department accepts referrals from physicians in the community who have performed an autism screen, Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) or Access may provide the MCHAT screening to Medicaid children for the ABA services. A positive screening results in an assignment to the responsible Member CMHSP for assessment which may include formal testing and diagnosis. NorthCare Network tracks the number of positive screenings and the outcomes of the Member CMHSP formal assessments.
2. NorthCare Network designates a clinical coordinator and a database coordinator to facilitate timely exchanges of information between MDCH, the PIHP and the Member CMHSPs.
3. NorthCare Network provides technical assistance to the Member CMHSPs to standardize procedures and documentation within the single EMR for the fifteen counties. NorthCare Network partners with two vendors to assure uniform training of staff is offered and documented in the regional electronic learning management system.
4. NorthCare Network Autism management and information management staff will partner with the Member CMHSPs to create data reports and processes to achieve the performance measures MDCH is required to report to CMS on a quarterly basis.

5. NorthCare Network prioritizes case reviews to assure adherence to standards of clinical care and quality measures. Selection of records is based on 1) disenrolled / closed cases 2) cases approved for ABA services but have not started services within 90 days 3) cases with re-evaluations due in 60 days. 4) Review of closed cases and completing data entry of ADOS into WSA database. Other criterion for chart review may be used such as critical incident reporting or incidents of the use of emergency physical interventions.
6. NorthCare Network Credentialing Program working with the Provider Network maintains an adequate provider network for ABA services.
7. NorthCare Network will submit required plans of correction to MDCH in a timely manner through collaborative efforts with the Member CMHSP providers.

C. Member CMHSP Responsibilities –

1. Member CMHSPs develop and maintain policy and procedures to provide ABA services to eligible children in their catchment area. The policy(ies) and procedures identify how referrals are managed; the responsibilities of the providers at different points in the assessment process; how the treatment team is organized and supervised; and parent/family education including clear expectations regarding required involvement in treatment. The policy/procedures must outline specifically the requirements for training for the applied behavior analysis aides within 90 days of hire and additional required training on the IPOS for each family for whom they provide services.
2. Each Member CMHSP in NorthCare Network is charged with educating families, educators and physicians in their catchment area of the availability of ABA services to eligible children covered by Medicaid and the scope of those services. Eligible families are fully informed about their rights to due process and how to report abuse and neglect during the treatment process.
3. The Member CMHSP is responsible for maintaining a qualified workforce of sufficient capacity to provide assessments and services in a reasonable timeframe. It is the Member CMHSP's responsibility to inform NorthCare Network if they are unable to meet the demand for ABA services and develop a plan for meeting service needs that may require going outside the existing provider network.
4. The Member CMHSPs participate with NorthCare Network in a regional autism workgroup to monitor and improve any areas concern in the provision of services and to achieve the MDCH mandated QI performance objectives.

