

NORTHCARE NETWORK

POLICY TITLE: Autism Benefit	CATEGORY: Clinical Practices	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/10/14	BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 12/10/14	
REVIEW DATE: 5/10/22	REVISION(S) TO POLICY STATEMENT: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	OTHER REVISION(S): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: Clinical Practices Coordinator	CEO APPROVAL DATE: 6/9/22 Dr. Tim Kangas, 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 Health & Human Services (MDHHS). NorthCare Network is responsible for monitoring the provider network to assure the training and access to a qualified workforce of professionals and behavioral technicians. 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 regarding 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 Medicaid Provider Manual -Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Supports and Service Section: Behavioral Treatment Services/Applied Behavior Analysis services.

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. ***Behavior Treatment/Applied Behavioral Analysis Services (BT/ABA)*** is a behavioral treatment for ASD that focuses on learning and motivation through several methods, such as positive reinforcement, and strategies to improve communication, 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 MDHHS for the professional services that require a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) and/ or a Board Certified Assistant Behavioral Analyst (BCaBA).
4. **Behavior Technician** 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 from the Behavior Technician task list established by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board prior to providing services. Currently MDHHS does not require formal certification by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).
5. **Levels of Intensity in BT/ABA services:**
 - **Focused Behavioral Intervention:** Focused behavioral intervention is provided an average of 5-15 hours per week. Actual hours provided are determined by the behavioral plan of care and interventions recommended and the family's needs and schedule.
 - **Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention:** Comprehensive behavioral intervention is provided an average of 16-25 hours per week (actual hours needed are determined by the behavioral plan of care and interventions required).

REFERENCES

- Michigan Medicaid Manual, Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services Chapter, current version
- MDHHS Applied Behavior Analysis(ABA) Performance Measures, current version
- <http://www.michigan.gov/autism>
- 2018 Coding Crosswalk
- NorthCare Network Policies:
 - Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - Credentialing & Oversight
 - Credentialing-Privileging

HISTORY

NEW POLICY – 1/1/15

REVISION DATE: 5/16/17; 3/13/18, 1/4/19, 10/31/19, 9/1/20, 7/19/21, 5/10/22

REVIEW DATE: 12/3/14, 9/17/15, 7/12/16, 5/16/17; 3/13/18; 1/4/19,10/31/19, 9/1/20, 7/19/21, 5/10/22

CEO APPROVAL DATE: 12/3/14, 11/9/15, 8/2/16, 6/6/17, 3/27/18, 2/7/19, 12/3/19, 9/1/20, 8/3/21, 5/10/22

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 MDHHS and the PIHP to submit candidates for MDHHS review of eligibility as determined by the qualified provider at the CMHSP.

- 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 Member CMHSP 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 uses the following as the guiding documents for implementation and monitoring BT/ ABA services:
- Medicaid Provider Manual -Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Supports and Service Section: Behavioral Treatment Services/Applied Behavior Analysis services.
 - Medicaid Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening, Evaluation and Treatment Recommendation Best Practice Guideline
 - Current MDHHS Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Performance Measures

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. Other appropriate assessments will also be accepted.
2. NorthCare Network designates a clinical coordinator and a database coordinator to facilitate timely exchanges of information between MDHHS, the PIHP and the Member CMHSPs and contract providers.
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 vendor(s) to assure uniform training of Behavior Technicians is offered and documented in the regional electronic learning management system.
4. NorthCare Network prioritizes case reviews to assure adherence to standards of clinical care and quality measures. Selection of records is based on factors such as disenrollment/closed cases; cases approved for ABA services but not starting services within 90 days; cases with re-evaluations due in 60 days; and 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 including incidents of the use of emergency physical interventions.
5. NorthCare Network Credentialing Program working with the Provider Network maintains an adequate provider network for ABA services.
6. NorthCare Network will submit required plans of correction to MDHHS 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 behavior technicians prior to initiating BT services 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. As needed, The Member CMSHPs 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 MDHHS mandated QI performance objectives.
5. As of 4.1.22 the ADOS, or other assessment tool, is now required every 3 years, or more frequently based on individual need and staff recommendations.