

# Welcome to Maryland ABA Benefit: 2019 Procedure Codes Update Training

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# Maryland ABA Benefit: 2019 Procedure Code Update

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# Objectives

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- Overview
- Review what IS NOT changing
- Review what IS changing
- Timeline for changes
- Provider takeaways

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# Overview

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# Overview

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- American Medical Association (AMA) released permanent, category 1 codes for ABA services in September 2018
- The proposed changes were developed in conjunction with APBA, ABAI, BACB and Autism Speaks
- The majority of previously utilized T-codes will no longer exist
- As of January 1, 2019 Maryland Medicaid providers must utilize the updated CPT codes comprised of:
  - Eight Category I codes (97151-97158) which will replace the Category III codes
  - Two modified codes remain in Category III (0362T and 0373T) utilized for severe behavior due to insufficient evidence

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# What IS NOT changing?

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# What IS NOT changing?

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- Reimbursement rates
- Covered services
- Preauthorization requirements for assessment and services
- All Behavior Technicians (BTs) must become Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) and have updated their status with ePREP by January 1, 2019

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# What IS changing?

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# What IS changing?

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- Nine Category I codes are being added (97151-97158 and H2012) and two Category III codes (0362T and 0373T) have been modified
- All codes are now in 15-minute increments
  - No service is untimed
- Add-on code structure has been removed

# ABA Assessment/Reassessment

- All 2019 CPT codes; 1 unit = 15 minutes
- ABA assessment period is 60 days
- Assessments are comprised of in-person activities and treatment plan development

ABA Service	Who Can Provide the Service	CPT Code	Unit / Hour Breakdown
ABA Assessment	BCBA, BCBA-D, Licensed Psychologist	97151	Up to 32 units
ABA Re-Assessment	BCBA, BCBCA-D, Licensed Psychologist	97151	Up to 12 units
Severe Behavior Assessment	BCBA, BCBA-D, licensed psychologist onsite and two or more BCaBAs or RBTs	0362T	Up to 32 units

# 97152 Follow Up Assessment by Technician

- All 2019 CPT codes; 1 unit = 15 minutes
- Reimbursable as an in-person service *only*
- Can be requested at any point within assessment or treatment
- Provider must submit clinical justification regarding what the necessity is for a technician to complete assessment activities and what specific activities are being delegated
- An individual treatment plan must be developed by a licensed psychologist, BCBA-D or BCBA\*
- An initial assessment must be completed by a licensed psychologist, BCBA-D or BCBA\*

ABA Service	Who Can Provide the Service	CPT Code	Unit / Hour Breakdown
Follow-up Assessment	BCaBA/RBT	97152	1 unit = 15 minutes

Reference: [http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=10.09.28.\\*](http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=10.09.28.*)

# ABA Treatment Planning

- All 2019 CPT codes; 1 unit = 15 minutes
- Provider can request up to 4 hours per month
- Treatment planning activities include development and revision of the treatment plan and goals, data analysis and real-time direct communication and coordination with the participant's other service providers

ABA Service	Who Can Provide the Service	CPT Code	Unit / Hour Breakdown
ABA Treatment Planning	BCBA, BCBA-D or licensed psychologist	H2012	4 units = 1 hour  Limited to no more than 4 hours authorized per month and a daily maximum of 16 units/day

# ABA Therapy

- All 2019 CPT codes; 1 unit = 15 minutes

ABA Service	Who Can Provide the Service	CPT Code	Unit / Hour Breakdown
Direct ABA therapy	RBT, BCaBA, BCBA, BCBA-D or licensed psychologist	97153	4 units = 1 hour Maximum 32 units/day
Group ABA therapy	BCBA, BCBA-D, licensed psychologist or by a RBT/ BCaBA	97154	4 units – 1 hour Group consists of 2-8 participants Maximum 16 units/day
Social Skills group	BCBA, BCBA-D or licensed psychologist	97158	4 unit = 1 hour Group consists of 2 – 8 participants Maximum 10 units/day
Severe Behavior Treatment	Two or more BCaBAs/RBTs with licensed psychologist, BCBA-D or BCBA onsite	0373T	4 units = 1 hour Maximum 24 units/day

# ABA Direction of Technician

- All 2019 CPT codes; 1 unit = 15 minutes
- Guidelines require the amount of direction be equal to at least 10 percent of the total amount of hours that direct ABA therapy is delivered.
- No more than 75% of sessions can be rendered remotely

ABA Service	Who Can Provide the Service	CPT Code	Unit / Hour Breakdown
Direction of Technician	BCBA-D or BCBA	97155	4 units = 1 hour Maximum 24 units/day
Remote Direction of Technician	BCBA-D or BCBA	97155 - GT	4 units = 1 hour Maximum 24 units/day

# ABA Parent Training

- All 2019 CPT codes; 1 unit = 15 minutes
- Reimbursable as an in-person service *only*

ABA Service	Who Can Provide the Service	CPT Code	Unit / Hour Breakdown
Parent training <b>with</b> child present	BCBA, BCBA-D, licensed psychologist or BCaBA	97156 – U2	4 units = 1 hour Maximum 16 units/day
Parent training <b>without</b> child present	BCBA, BCBA-D, licensed psychologist or BCaBA	97156	4 units = 1 hour Maximum 16 units/day
Multiple family group training by	BCBA, BCBA-D or licensed psychologist	97157	4 units = 1 hour Group consists of 2-8 participants Maximum 10 units/day

# Sample Treatment Recommendation Chart

Maximum authorization span = 26 weeks or 6 months

CPT Code	Description of Service	Frequency of service requested	Location of Services	Who is Providing the service?
97153	ABA Therapy	24 hours/week	Home	RBT
91755 / 97155-GT	Direction of Technician	2.5 hours/week 75% remote	Home/Office	BCBA
97156 – U2	Parent Training with Child	1.5 hours/week	Home	BCBA
97156	Parent Training without Child	1.25 hours/week	Home	BCBA
H2012	ABA Treatment Planning	4 hours/month	Office	BCBA
97151	ABA Reassessment	3 hours total	Office	BCBA

## Calculating Units

# hours/week \* 26 weeks = total hours \* 4 = total units  
 24 hours \* 26 weeks = 624 total hours \* 4 = 2,496 total units



# Sample Treatment Request

## Requested Services

*Place of Service	*CPT or HCPC Code	Modifier 1 (If Applicable)	Modifier 2 (If Applicable)	Modifier 3 (If Applicable)	Modifier 4 (If Applicable)	*Visits/ Units
HOME	97153					2496
HOME	97155					65
OFFICE	97155	GT				195
HOME	97156	U2				156
HOME	97156					130
OFFICE	H2012					96
OFFICE	97151					12

### Direction of technician

2.5 hours \* 26 weeks = 65 total hours \* 4 = 260 total units

25% direct = 260 \* .25 = 65 units

75% remote = 260 \* .75 = 195 units

### Parent Training WITH child

1.5 hours \* 26 weeks = 39 hours \* 4 = 156 total units

### Parent Training WITHOUT child

1.25 hours \* 26 weeks = 32.5 \* 4 = 130 total units

### ABA Treatment Planning

4 total hours \* 6 months = 24 hours \* 4 = 96 total units

### ABA Reassessment

3 total hours \* 4 units per hour = 12 total units

# Timeline for Changes

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- ABA assessment changes are underway!
- All ABA assessment authorizations have been end dated 12/31/18
- Submit request via email to [abaservices@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:abaservices@beaconhealthoptions.com)
  - Member Name:
  - Member Date of Birth:
  - Member Medicaid ID#:
  - Number of hours utilized:
  - Number of hours remaining:
- Hours utilized + hours remaining cannot exceed 8 hours
- Assessment period is equal to 60 calendar days
- Starting 1/1/19 use **97151** for up to 32 units which equals 8 hours

# Timeline for Changes

- ABA Service authorization changes are underway!
- Current ABA service authorizations will be split, the current codes are payable until 12/31/18
- The new codes are effective 1/1/19

**0368T ABA TREATMENT - TELEHEALTH FIRST 30 MINS FROM 8/27/2018  
TO 12/31/2018 FOR 13 DAYS/VISITS**

**0369T ABA TREATMENT - TELEHEALTH ADDITIONAL MINS FROM  
8/27/2018 TO 12/31/2018 FOR 27 DAYS/VISITS**

**97153 ABA TREATMENT FROM 1/1/2019 TO 2/2/2019 FOR 300  
DAYS/VISITS**

**97155 ABA TREATMENT FROM 1/1/2019 TO 2/2/2019 FOR 8  
DAYS/VISITS**

# Timeline for Changes

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- Starting January 1, 2019
  - All authorization requests must be submitted using the new CPT codes in this presentation
  - Submitting authorization requests utilizing the old codes may cause delay in processing or a denial in services

# Provider Takeaways

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- Familiarize yourselves with the new CPT codes
  - A cross walk was included in the provider alert
- Timely filing for claims is 1 year from date of service
- Claims for dates of service 12/31/18 and prior should be submitted using the old CPT codes that were active during those dates of service
- Claims with dates of service 1/1/19 forward should use the new CPT codes
- Claims submitted for dates of service 1/1/19 and after using old CPT codes will result in claims denials
- Contact your organization's clearinghouse to communicate the upcoming changes
  - Contact ABA Provider Relations inbox if you have questions about the changes ([marylandabaproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:marylandabaproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com))
  - Contact ABA Clinical Services inbox if you have questions about authorization changes and updates ([abaservices@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:abaservices@beaconhealthoptions.com))

# Questions?



# Thank you

