



PROVIDER ALERT

Guidelines For Utilizing Clinic-Based Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services

April 18, 2019

This *Alert* serves to provide clarification related to the delivery of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services in a clinic-based setting. The efficacy of providing ABA services in the home allows for the child's generalization of skills through an individualized treatment plan and the targeting of maladaptive behaviors, if any. It also allows for adequate parent training and observation; however, in certain instances, clinic-based services may also be authorized.

According to COMAR 10.09.28.05C ABA services shall be delivered in a home or community setting, including a clinic, when medically necessary.

Certain ABA services for members diagnosed with autism may be medically justified to be performed in a clinic-based setting. These include:

- A functional analysis in which scenarios will be tested that include a high probability for explosive, aggressive or self-injurious behavior;
- ABA treatment provided to members with severe behavior such that it may be unsafe for them to be treated in the home setting and may necessitate multiple staff to be present;
- ABA treatment provided to members whose home environments are considered not safe, as a current health hazard or environmental barrier is present that the provider demonstrates an inability to mitigate;
- ABA treatment provided in a group and/or targeting social skills with 2-8 members; and
- Multi-family group training.

A treatment plan in which clinic-based services are requested must be individualized, based on the medical necessity of the member and must indicate:

- Specific, individualized rationale as to why services are being recommended to be provided in a clinic-based setting;
- A detailed plan for transitioning care into the member's home and/or community environment;
- Objectives that will be targeted in the clinic-based setting that are being

recommended for treatment (if recommending more than one setting, include objectives that will be targeted in each setting where treatment is being proposed to occur); and

- A description of the parent/caregiver involvement when services are being recommended in a clinic-based setting.

Please note that to be in compliance with COMAR 10.09.28.05D, the participant's parent or caregiver shall: (1) be trained to reinforce ABA services for the participant in a clinically effective manner; and **(2) be present or available in the setting where services are being provided, at all times, even if not directly participating in the services.**

If you have questions regarding this *alert*, please e-mail:
abamarylandproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com

Provider Alerts can be viewed online by clicking on the following link:
<http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/autism/autism-alerts.html>

Provider Alerts typically published to the website within 10 business days.

See what's happening on our social sites

