



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Applied Behavior Analysis Services Transmittal No. 1
May 30, 2017

TO: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Providers
 Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

Susan J. Tucker

FROM: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
 Office of Health Services

RE: ABA Services

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

Effective January 1, 2017, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Department) covers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy services for Medicaid participants under the age of 21 when these services are determined to be medically necessary for a child or adolescent who has been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Prior to receiving ABA services, the child/adolescent must receive a diagnosis of ASD by a qualified health care professional and a referral for ABA therapy services. A qualified health care professional is a developmental pediatrician, pediatric neurologist, child psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, neuropsychologist, pediatrician, or nurse practitioner with training and experience to diagnose ASD through a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation (CDE).

The MCO is responsible for authorization and reimbursement of the CDE if it is completed by a pediatrician, developmental pediatrician, nurse practitioner, or pediatric neurologist. If the CDE is provided by a child psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, or neuropsychologist, it must be preauthorized through Beacon Health Options (BHO), the Department's Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (ASO). MCOs have no responsibility to provide ABA services other than CDEs. The services will be preauthorized through BHO and reimbursed by the Medical Assistance Fee-for-Service program.

For more information about ABA services, please see the following link:

<https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/epsdt/ABA/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Questions about ABA services can be sent via e-mail to dhmh.aba@maryland.gov.