

Accessing Services for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Member Instructions – July, 2013



The New York State Autism Mandate of 2011 requires health plans to provide very specific coverage for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services and Assistive Communication Devices (ACD) for many, *but not all*, health policies.

These services are subject to preauthorization and medical necessity review:

- ASD services are reviewed and authorized by our partner, Health Integrated, Inc.
Phone: 1-877-837-0814 ♦ Fax: 1-866-390-0864
- All ABA and related services must be arranged through our ABA service partner, Pacific Child and Family Associates (Pacific Child).
Phone: 1-888-541-6853 ♦ Email: admission@pacificchild.com
- If you are seeking services from a provider outside of our service area or if you are unsure if a provider is participating, contact Pacific Child and Family Services at 1-818-241-6780.

Accessing Applied Behavior Analysis Benefits

Step 1: Verify your benefits by calling the toll-free customer service number on the back of your member ID card.

Step 2: Have your primary doctor or a licensed psychologist complete and submit a **Comprehensive Evaluation or Functional Behavior Assessment Request Form** (available on our provider website) for one of the following scenarios:

- **A New ASD Diagnosis**
 - If your child is newly-diagnosed or suspected of having ASD, the doctor needs to complete the patient and provider information on the form as well as the **Comprehensive Evaluation Request for Newly Screened Patients** section.
 - The doctor must indicate the results of the screening tool used to evaluate your child.

OR

- **An Established ASD Diagnosis**
 - If your child has already been diagnosed or has received ASD services through the school system or other program, complete the lower section of the form along with the patient and referring provider information.
 - Fax the request form to Health Integrated with a copy of the most recent ASD evaluation by a developmental pediatrician, neurologist, psychiatrist, or licensed psychologist **and** the results of a comprehensive history and physical completed within the last six months by your child's primary doctor.

Step 3: Once the forms and reports are reviewed and approved, a written authorization for a comprehensive evaluation will be sent.

- A Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) will be arranged with you through Pacific Child.
- The completed FBA and treatment plan will be submitted to Health Integrated for review and approval.

If the request is not approved, you will receive written notification stating why the request was denied and instructions on how to appeal the decision.

Step 4: Health Integrated will review all medical documents and the FBA. If approved, you will receive a written authorization for six months of ABA services as defined by the treatment plan.

If the treatment plan request is not approved, you will receive written notification stating why the request was denied and instructions on how to appeal the decision.

Step 5: Each patient's progress and treatment plan must be reviewed every six months for authorization of additional or new services. Use the **Outpatient Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Report** form on our website to request continued ABA services.

Assistive Communication Devices (ACD)

Assistive Communication Devices require a comprehensive speech and language evaluation by a licensed speech and language pathologist and a prescription for the device from the doctor.

- Only devices or software dedicated to the production of speech or interpersonal communication are eligible for coverage.
 - Multiuse devices such as computers, iPads, and smart phones **are not** covered devices.
 - Software or apps that are dedicated to the production of speech or interpersonal communication that run on such devices **are** eligible for coverage.

To access ACD coverage:

Step 1: Obtain a comprehensive speech and language evaluation through a licensed pathologist. This may require preauthorization, depending on your contract.

The evaluation should include:

1. Documentation of the specific speech disorder and the severity.
2. Evaluation of the patient's ability to use the device.
3. Documentation that alternate means of communication (gestures, sign language, etc) are inadequate.
4. An individualized treatment plan with functional communication goals.
5. Recommendations for the specific device and/or software that the patient needs, including the device name, price, provider, and HCPCS code.

If you need assistance arranging an evaluation by a qualified speech and language pathologist, Pacific Child can help you.

Step 2: Submit the physician request and speech pathologist evaluation to Health Integrated for review and authorization. If the request is approved, you will receive a written authorization for:

1. *Authorization for ACD from a participating provider:* If the device has been approved, you and the requesting provider will receive an approval notice. You may obtain the device from the participating provider and the provider will bill us directly.

OR

2. *Authorization for ACD from a non-participating provider:* If the device has been approved, and is to be purchased from a provider who is not a participating provider with us (e.g., an internet vendor, Walmart, etc.), you must submit a copy of the approval notice along with a detailed receipt for the approved device. We will then reimburse you for the costs associated with the approved device.