Medicaid Benefit for Adaptive Behavior Services

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Interdepartmental Team Members

Special Thanks to the Governor’s Office and the Commissioners and Executive Leadership from Each of the Participating Agencies.

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  o Jamelle Smith

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Examples of Agencies’ Existing Autism Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Initiative</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emory Autism Center</td>
<td>Increasing statewide capacity of psychologist trained to provide a diagnosis of autism use ADOS – 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emory Autism Center</td>
<td>Providing behavioral support and training for children (ages 4 - 10) diagnosed with autism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rita Young &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Providing training on developmental monitoring and referrals for DFCS (Foster Parents and Caseworkers) and WIC staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Babies Can’t Wait- Part C Early Intervention Program</td>
<td>IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program for children birth to age 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Autism Center</td>
<td>Early Intervention training for BCW providers using the Autism Navigator web-based course. Intensive and partial day treatment services to</td>
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<td>children, who are Medicaid eligible with severe and challenging behaviors including pediatric feeding disorders. Includes conducting</td>
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<td>evaluations and providing outpatient services delivered in contractor outpatient clinics as well as in community environments (i.e.,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>homes, school, and natural environment). Behavioral evaluation, treatment, and/or therapy in community settings (home, school, natural</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>environment) to Medicaid eligible children having autism spectrum disorder. Developmental and behavioral evaluations, treatments,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>therapy and/or case management services for Medicaid eligible children who are referred for such services by the DBHDD and at sites</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other than the Marcus Autism Center in a region comprised of the twenty-county metropolitan Atlanta region and at least four other</td>
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<td></td>
<td>regions of the state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyramid Consortium - BCW</td>
<td>Training BCW providers on working with families of children (ages 0 -3) to improve social -emotional outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University</td>
<td>Statewide Autism Conference for families and providers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emory Autism Center</td>
<td>Developing Health Care Transition materials, strategies, and resources for youth and young adults with autism.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- 1:64 children (ages 0 to 21) in Georgia have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
  - 1.1 million children in GA on Medicaid younger than 21 years of age
  - Estimated 17,000 children with autism enrolled in GA Medicaid

- Children with ASD require varying levels of support (DSM-V criteria)
  - Level 1 - Requiring Support
  - Level 2 - Requiring Substantial Support
  - Level 3 - Requiring Very Substantial Support
Treatment for ASD

• **Adaptive Behavior Services (ABS)**
  o Behavioral therapy -- foundation for ASD treatment
  o Social skills development
  o Not currently available through Medicaid in GA

• **Non-behavioral therapies**
  o Speech-language therapy
  o Occupational therapy
  o Physical therapy

• **Medical and psychiatric treatment for associated conditions**
ABS Providers

Behavior Analysis is the scientific study of principles of learning and behavior. Practitioners of behavior analysis are qualified to provide services to address organizational functioning, skill deficits (e.g., communication, adaptive behavior), and problem behavior (e.g., aggression, self-injurious behavior), for examples.

Behavioral Analysts are Certified nationally by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

# Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative

**BCBA-D: Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctoral Level**
A doctoral level practitioner qualified to diagnose and provide direct services and supervise BCBA’s

**BCBA: Board Certified Behavior Analyst** Masters/graduate level independent practitioners who provide behavior-analytic services. May supervise the work of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts, Registered Behavior Technicians, and others who implement behavior-analytic interventions.

**BCaBA: Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst**
Bachelor’s level practitioner, must be supervised by BCBA/BCBA-D; can supervise Registered Behavior Technicians.

**Registered Behavior Technicians**
Paraprofessional who implements the service plan under supervision of Certified Behavior Analyst.

https://bacb.com/about-behavior-analysis/
ABS Providers
Capacity limitations based on already employed workforce

Behavioral analysts
- BCBA-D: doctoral level
- BCBA: masters/graduate level
- BCaBA: bachelor’s level; requires supervision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Statewide Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCBA-D</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCBA</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCaBA</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>359</td>
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Additional 323 Registered Behavior Technicians

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Proposed Solutions for Capacity Building

- **Utilize telemedicine**
  - Equipment
  - Training

- **Infrastructure investment**
  - Contract with vendor to provide administrative oversight and implementation of key workforce and infrastructure activities
  - Co-Location Hub Model for Southern/Southwest Hub
  - Education Opportunities

- **Expand to include crisis services**
  - Crisis Respite
  - Mobile Crisis
  - Intensive Support Coordinator
Benefit Coverage & Design

Inputs

- CMS Guidance (June 2014)
- Advocate and provider subject matter experts
- Autism Plan for Georgia
- Governor’s Budget Recommendation and Legislative Appropriations

Guiding Principles

- Leverage existing infrastructure
- Open ABS procedure codes
- Phase in multiple access points
- Invest in early intervention
- Expand qualified provider network through enrollment of BCBAs

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Benefit Coverage Framework
Coding and Pricing

• **Code Selection**
  - Other states
  - CMS proposed codes
  - Additions based on subject matter expert input

• **Pricing**
  - Model existing CMS-approved behavioral health reimbursement structure (Medicaid Rehabilitation Option)
  - Tiered rates based on provider credentials and other criteria

• **Telemedicine**

*Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative*
## Tiered Reimbursement

### Tiered Reimbursement Levels

- **Level 1** – Physician, Psychiatrist
- **Level 2** – Psychologist, BCBA-D
- **Level 3** – BCBA
- **Level 4** – BCaBA or Master’s level Behavior Analyst without certification
- **Level 5** – Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT)

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- Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Current State

- Developmental Screening*: Ages 0 to 3
- Referral for Diagnosis: Ages +/- 5
- Non-Behavioral Therapies: Ages 0 to 21

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative

*Autism-specific screening currently limited by lack of reimbursement
Towards a Full Range of Services

- Ages 0 through 20

- Access to non-behavioral services continues

Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Implementation Phases/Timeline

**Current State**
- Limited Screening, Referral, Therapies

**Phase 1: July 1, 2017**
- Pediatricians receive separate reimbursement for autism screening
  - Psychologists provide/supervise provision of autism services
  - Babies Can’t Wait Special Instructors provide therapies –Ages 0-3

**Phase 2: October 1, 2017**
- Early Intervention Service Coordinators
  - Public Health Centers provide screening & autism services
    - CSBs provide autism services
    - CIS Licensed Therapists provide autism services

**Phase 3: January 1, 2018**
- BCBAs provide autism services
- Local Education Agencies provide autism services
- Crisis Support (Respite, Mobile, Stabilization)
- State refocuses to provider development

*Recommendations of the multi-state agency autism collaborative*
Public Notice and State Plan Amendments

• Public Notice – ABS Coverage for Children and the Enrollment of BCBAs

• CMS Approval
  ○ 90 Days from submission to approve
Communication and Engagement

• **Deploy Communication Plans**
  - Email blast
  - Letters and mailed “toolkits”
  - Symposium and conference representation
  - Teleconference (VICS)
  - Webinar

• **Establish seat on DCH Medical Care Advisory Committee for Autism Services Provider**

- Recommendations of the multi-agency state autism collaborative
Questions?