

The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

Applied Behavior Analysis Presentation

Guidance for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- July 7, 2014 – CMS released guidance on ASD

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/CIB-07-07-14.pdf>

- Coverage of comprehensive services for children with ASD under Medicaid State Plan authority.
- Coverage must include an evidence based behavioral intervention benefit.
- No time frame, expectation that States must move expeditiously.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Applied Behavior Analysis

“Is the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce meaningful changes in human behavior.”

Behavior Analyst Certification Board (2014). *Practice Guidelines for Healthcare Funders and Managers*.

http://www.bacb.com/Downloadfiles/ABA_Guidelines_for_ASD.pdf

Why ABA?

DHCFP selected ABA as the delivery model for several reasons:

- Evidence based model for children with ASD
- Lessons learned from Louisiana and Washington
- Delivery model already used in Nevada
 - With AB 162 Nevada requires insurers to cover ABA in the commercial market.
 - Autism Treatment Assistant Program (ATAP)

Medical Coverage Policy Development

DHCFP has taken the following steps:

- Held three workshops to gain stakeholder input on medical coverage policy, provider qualifications, and billing codes;
 - September 15, 2014
 - November 13th, 2014 (South), November 18, 2014 (North)
 - December 10th, 2014
- Worked with sister agency to gain ATAP criteria; and
- Obtained copyright permission from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board to use the BACB guidelines.

Covered Services

DHCFP is proposing coverage of ABA services for:

- Behavioral Screening
- Comprehensive Diagnosis
- Adaptive Behavioral Treatment Intervention
- Adaptive Behavioral Family Treatment

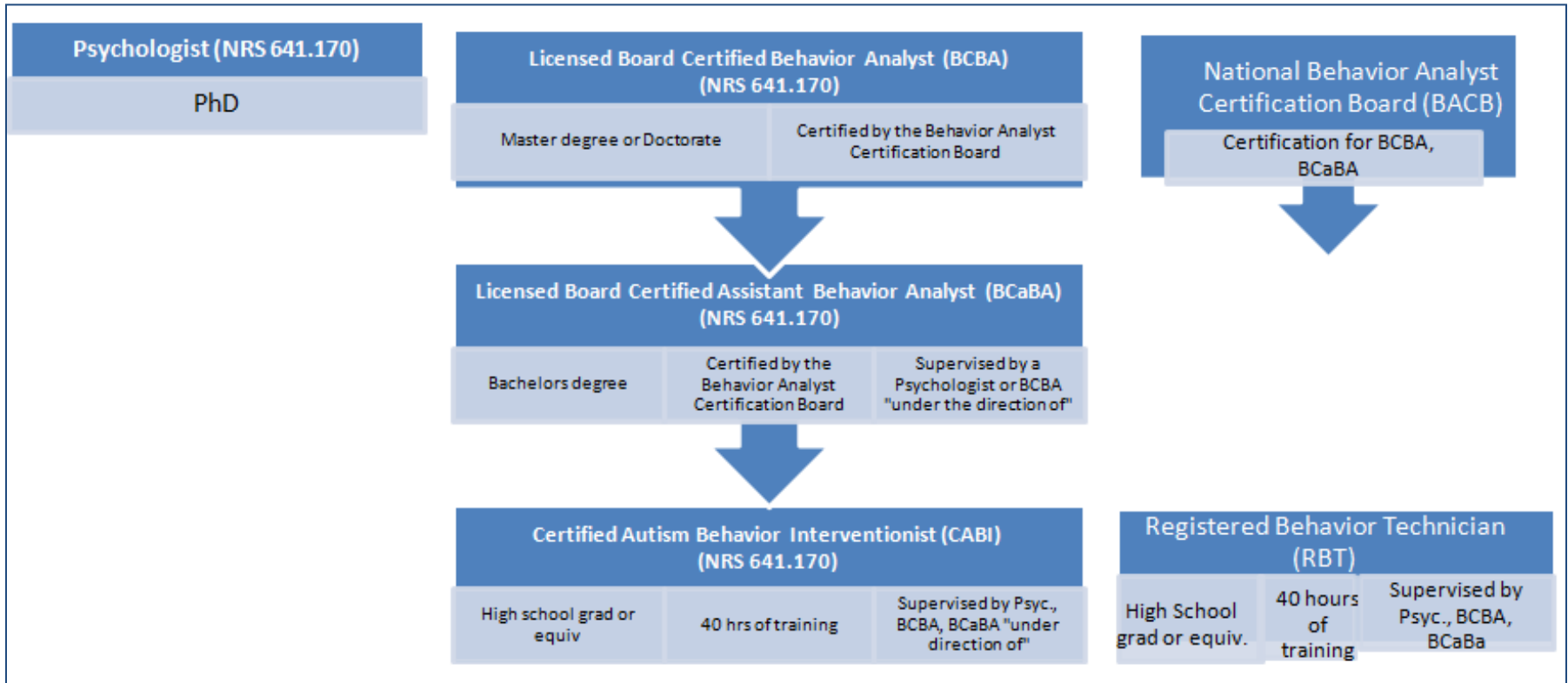
Medical Coverage Criteria Highlights

- Recipients must be under 21 years of age;
- Have an established supporting diagnosis of ASD, and medically necessary;
- Exhibits excesses and/or deficits in behavior that impedes access to age appropriate home or community activities;
- Services are rendered in accordance with an individual's treatment plan with realistic and obtainable goals;
- Reasonable expectation individual will improve, or maintain to the maximum extent practical functional gains;
- Evidence based assessment criteria and individual test results; and
- Must be prior authorized.

Non Covered Services Highlights

- Services which do not meet medical necessity criteria;
- Services used to reimburse parent/guardian for participation in the treatment plan;
- Services rendered by the parent/guardian;
- Services that are duplicative under an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP);
- Vocational, recreational, respite, child care, education, equine therapy;
- Care coordination billed independently of direct services; and
- ABA cannot be reimbursed on the same day as other rehabilitative mental health services.

Provider Qualifications



Billing Codes

CPT Category III Codes

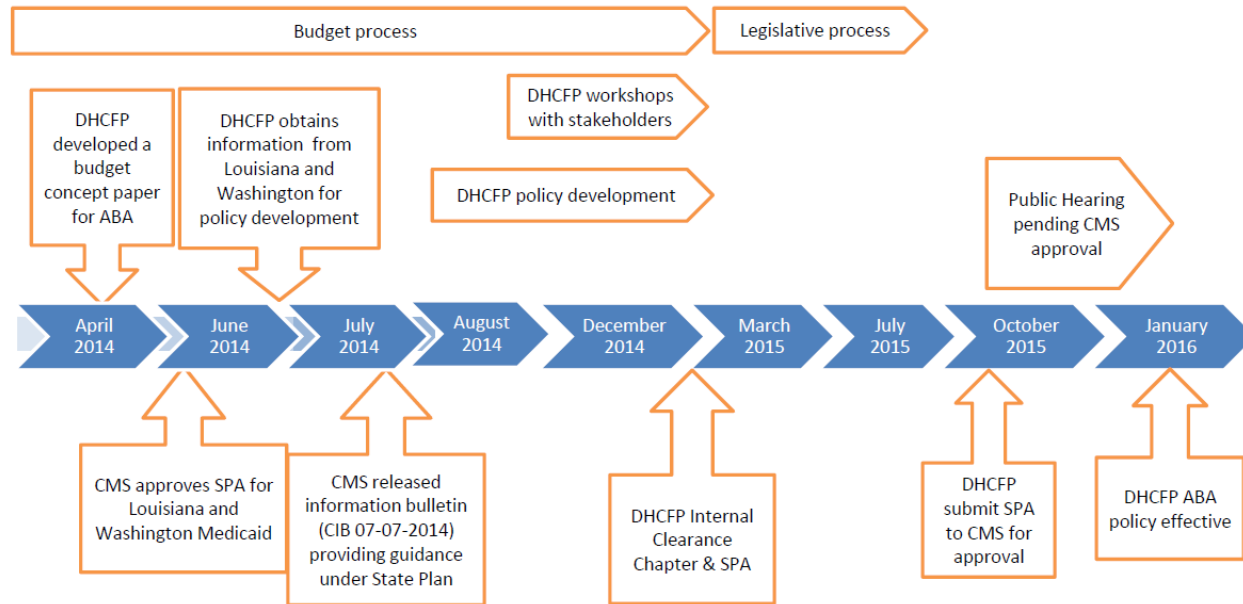
- Assessments
- Adaptive Behavior Treatment (Individual)
- Adaptive Behavior Treatment (Group)
- Adaptive Behavior Treatment (Family) without child present
- Adaptive Behavior Treatment (Family) with child present

DHCFP Next Steps

- Ongoing communication with CMS, gaining clarification on SPA draft regarding Other Licensed Practitioners and “under the direction of”
- Chapter and Policy SPA in internal clearance
- System development for the new provider type and codes is in process
- Workgroup is being formed to develop a transition plan for behavioral interventionists to RBT credentialing
- Rates Workshop
- Public Hearings for Chapter, Policy SPA, and Rates SPA
- Submit SPAs to CMS
- Anticipated effective date January 2016

Timeline

Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
Applied Behavior Analysis Timeline 2014-2016



ABA Webpage

<https://dhcfp.nv.gov/ABA.htm>

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Care Financing and Policy



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APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Welcome to the State of Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) webpage. On July 7th, 2014 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance on approaches available under the federal Medicaid program for providing medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The DHCFP is proposing coverage for ABA services rendered to Medicaid eligible individuals under age 21, including children with ASD, based on individual determinations of medical necessity.

DEFINITIONS

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. A diagnosis of ASD can include Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), or Asperger's Disorder.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental alterations to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior.

WORKSHOPS

[Agendas](#)

[Minutes](#)

RESOURCES

[CMS Information Bulletin July 7, 2014](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Nevada Autism Coalition](#)

[Autism Treatment Assistance Program \(ATAP\)](#)

QUESTIONS

Email ABAServices@dhcfp.nv.gov to ask questions about Applied Behavior Analysis services.

Questions?

ABAServices@dhcfp.nv.gov

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