



Fact Sheet on WVCHIP Plan Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Does WVCHIP cover services for children related to a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

- Yes, WVCHIP has always covered services necessary for screenings and diagnostic tests needed to diagnose ASD as well as some therapies. A few years ago, Birth to Three Program services were also added to WVCHIP’s benefit plan. As an insurance modeled plan, WVCHIP traditionally has not served those children with severe disabilities that qualified them for Social Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) along with a Medicaid Card and/or Medicare Card, but we have never excluded children based on diagnosis.

What changes related to ASD did State law require WVCHIP to make to its benefits?

- Statute §5-16B-6e requires WVCHIP to cover Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) – a service some studies have shown to be effective in young children with ASD.

What is Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)?

- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior. Services are provided by *specialty trained professionals* who are “certified” by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) in the area of behavioral analysis and plan design and implementation.

Who is medically eligible to receive ABA services?

WV CHIP covers any child up through the age of 18 who meets the following **two** guidelines:

- Primary diagnosis of any of the Autism Spectrum Disorders identified in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM IV). Currently these are;

ICD-9 Code	Primary Diagnosis
299.0	Autistic disorder, current or active state
299.01	Autistic disorder, residual state
299.10	Childhood disintegrative disorder, current or active state
299.11	Childhood disintegrative disorder, residual state
299.80	Other specified pervasive developmental disorders, current or active state
299.81	Other specified pervasive developmental disorders, residual state
299.90	Unspecified pervasive developmental disorder, current or active state
299.91	Unspecified pervasive developmental disorder, residual state

AND

- The child has a primary diagnosis of ASD *prior to their 8th birthday*;



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What professionals are qualified to *diagnose* my child?

- Licensed physicians such as a neurologist, pediatric neurologist, developmental pediatrician, or psychiatrist; or a licensed psychologist;

What medically necessary services are covered for my child with ASD diagnosis?

WV CHIP will cover *medically necessary* services (within plan limits), including but not limited to:

- Developmental Screenings, approved ASD specific screenings and diagnostic testing (including diagnostic tests to rule out underlying cause); specialized evaluations and assessments performed by licensed physicians such as a neurologist, pediatric neurologist, developmental pediatrician, psychiatrist; a licensed psychologist, certified registered nurse practitioner, BCBA, physician assistant, speech therapist / audiologist, and occupational therapists;
- Medical evaluations;
- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) performed by a Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (the Analyst) and Board Certified assistant Behavior Analysts (the Assistant);
- Discrete Trial Training (DTT);
- Pharmacy Care (those prescriptions FDA-approved specifically for treatment of ASD);

What types of providers are qualified to perform ABA?

- A qualified provider of ABA services is one that has been designated as a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA);
- A Board Certified assistant Behavioral Analyst (BCaBA) may provide some ABA services while *under the supervision of a BCBA*;

How do I locate a BCBA and/or a BCaBA provider?

- Go to the certification website, www.bacb.com, to locate a qualified provider near you and check with the provider to make sure they accept CHIP;

Who determines what services are covered for my child?

- A licensed physician such as neurologist, pediatric neurologist, developmental pediatrician, or psychiatrist; or a licensed psychologist will request, prescribe, and order services which are reviewed for medical necessity;

Who submits testing, assessments and other medical information?

- As WVCHIP's Case Manager, HealthSmart reviews and approves all **prior authorization** requests for any ABA therapy requested; and rehabilitative treatment services (those which are a covered service as described in the 2012 WVCHIP Service Plan Description) exceeding plan limits (26 behavioral health visits);



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What services are not covered for WVCHIP active members with an ASD?

- Any service not preauthorized as part of the Individual Service Plan (ISP) by HealthSmart case management;
- Any service that has *NOT* been established as an evidenced based treatment practice for an ASD condition;
- Complimentary Alternative Medicines (CAM);
- Experimental and Investigational treatments for which there is *insufficient* medical evidence in medical literature;
- Services related to the treatment and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders when provided by school personnel for an individualized education program (IEP), or benefits provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.);
- Any service that has *not* met medical necessity criteria as set forth by WV CHIP;
- Out of state services not prior approved by a HealthSmart Case Manager;
- Services related to the treatment and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders when provided by school personnel for an individualized education program (IEP), or benefits provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.);
- Residential treatment settings.

Are there limits on services that WV CHIP covers?

- By statute, all medically necessary ABA therapy is limited to \$30,000 per member, per year for three consecutive years from the date treatment starts for a member with a primary diagnosis of ASD diagnosed prior to the member's eighth birthday;
- After the third consecutive year of treatment is concluded, ABA therapy coverage cannot exceed \$2,000 per month until the individual reaches nineteen years of age;
- Your child no longer meets medical eligibility for ABA services;
- ***Your child does NOT meet enrollment eligibility criteria for WVCHIP;***
- ***Your child is NO LONGER eligible for WVCHIP coverage; (NOTE: It is important to assure your child's coverage has been renewed at annual reviews since your child may have been approved for services, but if eligibility expires services are not covered.);***

Other Information:

- If you have an infant or toddler under the age of 3 and has signs of a complex or severe disability, you may want to ask your physician for a referral to the Birth to Three program for a full assessment. For information regarding this program please go to <http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23/> ;
- If your child is being assessed for signs of a severe disability, you may want to speak with a representative of the West Virginia I/DD Waiver Program to see if your child may qualify for this program. For resources please go to <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bhhf/Sections/programs/ProgramsPartnerships/IDD/Pages/default.aspx>;
- If your child has been diagnosed with an intellectual disability please go to <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bhhf/sections/programs/ProgramsPartnerships/IDD/Pages/default.aspx> for information on resources, assistance, publications and advocacy.