



October 3, 2014

Eligibility for Applied Behavior Analysis

After receiving reports from parents that their child was ineligible for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, the Council sought information from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH).

According to the administrative rule released on this service, ALL of the following criteria must be met by Medicaid recipients to qualify for ABA. The recipient must:

1. be from birth up to 21 years of age;
2. exhibit the presence of excesses and/or deficits of behaviors that significantly interfere with home or community activities (examples include, but are not limited to aggression, self-injury, elopement, etc.);
3. be medically stable and does not require 24-hour medical/nursing monitoring or procedures provided in a hospital or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities (ICF/ID);
4. be diagnosed by a qualified health care professional with a condition for which ABA-based therapy services are recognized as therapeutically appropriate, including autism spectrum disorder;
5. have a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation by a qualified health care professional; and
6. have a prescription for ABA-based therapy services ordered by a qualified health care professional.

According to DHH, all ABA providers are aware that ABA services **are not limited to children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.**

If your child was denied ABA services solely on the grounds that he/she did not have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, please call Medicaid at 1-844-423-4762.