Medical Management

Important Notes for ABA Providers

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) providers should note that graphs are required for all in-progress goals and behavior tracking for both initial and concurrent authorization requests.

Other notes for ABA authorizations:

- Please review all In Basket messages regularly for important authorization updates. Notifications regarding documentation requirements, clinical rationale, authorization decisions and other pertinent information will be communicated through In Basket.
- For all addendum requests seeking an increase in authorized hours, clearly identify the purpose of the addendum and submit supporting data, including graphs that demonstrate an increase in symptom severity, treatment needs, or other clinical factors warranting additional service hours. Addendum requests that do not include objective supporting data may not be approved.
- Authorization requests are reviewed based on the clinical information and supporting documentation submitted. Requested service hours are not guaranteed and will be evaluated in accordance with medical necessity criteria and organizational medical policy.

Authorization of intensive ABA services is time-sensitive and based on demonstrated medical necessity and measurable clinical progress. Initial authorizations for comprehensive or focused ABA treatment may include higher service intensity when clinically justified.

However, service levels are expected to progressively decrease over subsequent authorization periods as treatment goals are achieved, caregiver capacity increases, and the member demonstrates greater functional independence.

Consecutive authorizations at the highest levels of service intensity (for example, repeated 35-hour authorizations for CPT® 97153) are not routinely approved without clear and compelling clinical justification. Ongoing treatment plans must demonstrate active efforts toward skill generalization, transition planning, and the gradual reduction of services when clinically appropriate.