

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Members

Effective January 1, 2018, Georgia's Medicaid Program will begin providing coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) services. Adaptive Behavior Services (ABS) to assess and treat ASD will be covered for Medicaid eligible members under age twenty-one. Pursuant to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, coverage is provided for an array of assessment and treatment services according to severity and based on medical necessity. Members must have a documented DSM-V diagnosis of ASD from a licensed physician or licensed psychologist to be eligible for ABS.

1. Who can diagnose a child with ASD?

- A licensed physician, psychologist, or other licensed professional as designated by the Medical Composite Board in order to perform a behavioral assessment and develop a resulting Plan of Care may diagnose a child with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in accordance with the DSM-V for the child to be eligible for adaptive behavior services.

2. What is the process of receiving autism services?

- Once the child receives an ASD diagnosis, an enrolled and qualified health care professional (QHCP) for ABA services must request prior approval (PA) to perform a behavioral assessment. QHCPs include licensed physicians, licensed psychologists, and/or Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBA or BCBA-D). A separate PA is required for ABS treatment according to the Plan of Care. A follow-up assessment must be completed every six months thereafter for the child to continue to receive services.

2. What services are available?

- The services that are available to individuals with ASD include the following adaptive behavior services:
 - Initial and follow-up assessments
 - Adaptive behavior treatment including social skills group

FAQ



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

3. Who do I contact to get services?

- Members may contact any enrolled provider or their care management organization directly.

4. Where can I find more information?

- Members can find more information by referring to Georgia Medicaid's Autism website located at <https://dch.georgia.gov/autism-spectrum-disorder>. Members may also contact any enrolled provider or their care management organization directly.

5. How do I find a provider?

- Members can find a provider by contacting their care management organization or checking the MMIS website provider list located at www.mmis.georgia.gov.

6. What if I am receiving services from the Babies Can't Wait program?

- The Georgia Department of Public Health's Babies Can't Wait (BCW) Program provides evaluation, assessment and treatment services to children from birth to three years of age who are determined eligible for the program. BCW will be expanding its scope of services to include the provision of autism related services beginning the first quarter of 2018.