



PROVIDER *bulletin*

May 22, 2020

Dear Provider,

When we hear the term Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) we often think of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) because ABA is used to treat autistic patients. Medi-Cal provides coverage for all medically necessary Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services for eligible beneficiaries under 21 years of age. This applies to any health condition, including children diagnosed with ASD and children for whom a licensed physician, surgeon, or psychologist determines that BHT services are medically necessary. BHT services include ABA therapy and a variety of other behavioral interventions that have been identified as evidence-based approaches that prevent or minimize the adverse effects of behaviors that interfere with learning and social interaction.

Examples of BHT services include behavioral interventions, cognitive behavioral intervention, comprehensive behavioral treatment, language training, modeling, natural teaching strategies, parent/guardian training, peer training, pivotal response training, schedules, scripting, self-management, social skills package, and story-based interventions.

For those KFHC members that may be eligible to receive Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services, providers can submit a prior authorization request for services using CPT Code 96116. Please include any concerning findings from your assessment such as, but not limited to, symptoms and behaviors of the member as well as any reported by the parent or guardian with your request. Based on pertinent medical records and symptoms described, Kern Health System's may approve a Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation (CDE) or a Mental Health Assessment (MHA) in order to determine medical necessity for BHT services.

If your office is interested in learning more about the criteria for BHT Services, please contact Alejandra Herrera at 661-617-2615.

For additional information regarding this benefit, please refer to the DHCS All Plan Letter 19-014:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2019/APL19-014.pdf>

Thank you,

Melissa Lopez
Provider Relations Manager