

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)

Q1: What is ABA?

A: Applied Behavioral Analysis, or ABA therapy, is an intensive behavioral intervention program for the autistic spectrum disorders. This treatment modality is typically a one-on-one teaching approach in which reinforcement is used to increase or decrease certain behaviors.

Q2: Does CareSource cover ABA services?

A: CareSource covers medically necessary ABA in its commercial insurance plans, including Just4Me in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Kentucky Medicaid also covers ABA services if delivered by an ABA provider type. In Ohio Medicaid, CareSource defers to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' providers for access, delivery and payment of these services.

Q3: Does CareSource credential ABA service providers?

CareSource credentials ABA service providers that are independently licensed.

Q4: What types of providers does CareSource credential?

CareSource credentials all licensed independent practitioners with whom it contracts. This includes physicians, facilities and non-physicians such as licensed independent social workers, licensed clinical counselors, psychologists, pediatricians, psychiatrists, marriage and family therapists, and in the state of Kentucky, Applied Behavior Analysts.

Q5: What does credentialing entail?

Through credentialing CareSource checks the qualifications and performance of physicians and other health care practitioners. A completed Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) Application (Part A), the Standardized Credentialing Form Part B, a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number are among the key documents required for credentialing. Please see the respective state Provider Manual for additional details on credentialing.

Q6: What does certifying entail?

For ABA, certification requires meeting the standards published in the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's (BACB) guidelines "Health Coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder" and actually holding a valid, current certification from BACB. For more information please go to <http://www.bacb.com>.

Q7: What types of providers does CareSource certify?

CareSource does not certify any providers. CareSource is not a certifying organization. Professional certifications are typically granted after successful completion of an exam which intends to deem someone competent in completing a job or a task. CareSource does not render examinations.

Q8: What is the difference between being credentialed and being certified?

There is definitely confusion around the use of these two terms and many use them interchangeably. At CareSource, credentialed requires that the provider complete the full process described in the **Q5** above. More details are found in the Provider Manual. As it relates to ABA services, everyone must be certified to deliver these services, but CareSource only credentialed those individuals licensed to practice independently, including Social Workers, Clinical Counselors, Psychologists, Pediatricians, Psychiatrists and Marriage and Family Therapists.

Q9: What does CareSource expect of a credentialed provider?

CareSource expects that a credentialed provider be independently licensed and adhere to the terms of our contractual agreement.

Q10: What does CareSource expect of a certified provider?

CareSource expects that, at a minimum, a certified provider either be credentialed or be working under a credentialed provider. A credentialed provider delivering ABA services would be both certified in ABA and credentialed. Further details are found in the "Credentialing and Recredentialing" chapter in the Provider Manual.

Q11: What is the relationship between a certified provider and a credentialed provider?

There may be no relationship between a certified provider and a credentialed provider. It is possible that a certified provider works under the oversight of a credentialed provider.

Q12: How does a credentialed ABA service provider submit a claim for ABA services?

CareSource accepts claims in a variety of formats, including paper and electronic. Details are available in the "Claims Submissions" section in the Provider Manual. A non-credentialed ABA service provider would need to have claims submitted by a credentialed provider who has oversight of the ABA services being delivered.

Q13: Where do I send a provider that wants to become credentialed to provide ABA services?

If the provider is independently licensed, the credentialing process is outlined in the Provider Manual. Required documents can be submitted via mail, fax or email. CareSource does not credential non-independently licensed professionals.

OH-P-989

3/2015