

Common Questions and Answers



What should a family do if they suspect their child may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

- ◆ The family should discuss the concerns with their health care provider and ask for diagnostic services to determine if their child has ASD. Early identification through well-child visits should lead to further evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.

If a child does not qualify for the Medicaid/MICHild Autism Benefit or the family does not want to pursue Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services through the benefit, can the child still get other mental health services?

- ◆ Yes, a child may qualify for other mental health services. Case managers can help navigate this process.

Does TBHS provide transportation for ABA Services?

- ◆ No, TBHS does not provide transportation for this program, however some beneficiaries may be eligible for transportation services through the Department of Human Services. TBHS can assist families with exploring available transportation options.



989.673.6191 or 1.800.462.6814

www.tbhsonline.com

Michigan and National Resources

Autism Society of Michigan
www.autism-mi.org

State of Michigan
www.michigan.gov/autism

Michigan Department
of Community Health
www.michigan.gov/mdch

Autism Alliance of Michigan
Resource Directory
Autismallianceofmichigan.org

Autism NOW
www.autismnow.org

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AUTISM BENEFIT

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services



989.673.6191 or 1.800.462.6814

What is the Autism Benefit?

The Medicaid and MI Child Autism Benefit provides intensive programming for children 18 months through 5 years of age with the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Children meeting the following criteria may be eligible for the benefit through TBHS:

- ◆ Enrolled in Medicaid and MICHild only
- ◆ Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis
- ◆ Age 18 months through 5 years (benefit ends on 6th birthday)
- ◆ Tuscola County resident

Children who are uninsured or those with commercial insurance benefits are not eligible through TBHS.

Eligibility/Diagnostic Process

The process of determining eligibility has various steps involving assessments, evaluations, and validation of the ASD diagnosis. TBHS will coordinate these assessments/evaluations and will work cooperatively with families to answer any questions during this process.

Services will be provided by a team of trained professionals and may include a Child Mental Health Professional, a Psychologist, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, a Psychiatrist and Applied Behavior Analysis Technicians, as appropriate.

Signs/ Symptoms of ASD

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, autism is characterized by impaired social interactions, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, repetitive behaviors, and/or severely limited activities and interests. Autism can be viewed as a continuum or spectrum, known as ASD, and includes Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). Early detection and treatment can have significant impact on a child's development. Recent research indicates that appropriate screening can determine whether a child is at risk for ASD as young as one year of age. Typically, screening for ASD occurs during a well-child visit with the pediatrician or family physician.

Symptoms may include:

- ◆ A delay in learning to talk, or not talking at all.
- ◆ Repetitive behaviors, unusual attachments to objects, and getting upset when routine changes.
- ◆ Limited or no eye contact with other people.
- ◆ Little or no pretend play.
- ◆ Delay in or lack of social play.
- ◆ Not responding to name at 6 months.
- ◆ Have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound.

Please note that this is not a complete list for the purpose of diagnosing.

Remember, each child is different. The type and severity of disabilities in children with ASD varies widely. The way your child behaves, relates to others and communicates is unique.

Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) is an evidence-based practice used with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to promote significant improvement in behavior. It can be used to reduce problem behaviors, and increase social skills, language and communication, safety skills, play and leisure skills, and coping skills.

ABA treatment relies on the direct support and training of family members and other involved professionals and can take place in a variety of settings including: TBHS Autism Clinic, the community, or the child's home.



Programming is individualized based on the child's needs and is provided according to his/her person centered plan. An established schedule for services will be developed through the person-centered planning process.

**Tuscola Behavioral
Health Systems**
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