

Bulletin Number: MSA 19-21

Distribution: Practitioners, Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Medicaid Health Plans, Tribal Health Centers, Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs)

Issued: August 30, 2019

Subject: Update of Coverage of Autism Services for Children Under 21 Years of Age

Effective: January 1, 2020

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, MICHild

Behavioral health treatment (BHT) services are highly specialized services that require specific qualified providers who are available within Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP)/Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) provider networks and have extensive experience providing specialty mental health and behavioral health services. BHT services must be provided under the direction of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), a qualified Licensed Psychologist (LP) or Limited License Psychologist (LLP), or a master's prepared Qualified Behavioral Health Professional (QBHP).

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) recently completed a statewide applied behavior analysis provider capacity survey of the PIHP/CMHSP system and is forecasting a provider network shortage that will negatively affect access, quality, and compliance of autism spectrum disorder benefit services. Current policy indicates BHT supervisors, including LPs, LLPs, and QBHPs, must be certified as a BCBA by September 30, 2020. This policy deadline is being extended to September 30, 2025 to ensure there is adequate access to a network of providers of BHT services. In addition, the QBHP must be certified as a BCBA within two years of successfully completing their applied behavior analysis (ABA) graduate coursework.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Massey", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration