



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ISSUE DATE:

June 6, 2016

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Immediately

NUMBER:

OMHSAS-16-07

SUBJECT:

Enrollment and Payment of Provider Entities that Do Not Have a License to Provide Outpatient, Partial Hospitalization, or Family Based Mental Health Services to Use Behavioral Specialist Consultant Services and Therapeutic Staff Support Services to Provide Applied Behavioral Analysis to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

BY:

Deputy Secretary
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

BY:

Deputy Secretary
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to entities that are not licensed to provide outpatient, partial hospitalization, or family based mental health services and who seek to enroll in the Medical Assistance (MA) program to use Behavioral Specialist Consultant-Autism Spectrum Disorder (BSC-ASD) services and Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) services to provide Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) to children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify entities that provide ABA to children with ASD and do not have an outpatient, partial hospitalization, or family based mental health license how to enroll in the MA program and be paid for using BSC-ASD and TSS services to provide ABA.

BACKGROUND:

The MA program provides ABA to children with ASD using BSC-ASD and TSS services. The Department of Human Services (Department) has determined that the requirement set forth in MA Bulletin 01-94-01, "Outpatient Psychiatric Services for Children Under 21 Years of Age," issued January 11, 1994, that a provider have a license to enroll to provide BSC services and TSS services has resulted in the inability of some entities that use highly qualified staff to provide ABA to children to enroll in the MA program. As a result, the Department has

established a process to waive the license requirement and enable entities that do not have an outpatient, partial hospitalization, or family based mental health license to provide ABA to children with ASD to enroll in the MA program.

DISCUSSION:

ABA is the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior or to prevent loss of attained skill or function. ABA includes the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior. ABA is used to develop needed skills (behavioral, social, communicative, and adaptive functioning) through the use of reinforcement, prompting, task analysis, or other appropriate interventions in order for a child or adolescent to master each step necessary to achieve a targeted behavior.

In accordance with Act 62 of 2008 the State Board of Medicine, in consultation with the Department, promulgated regulations providing for the licensure of behavior specialists. In OMHSAS Bulletin 14-02, "Enrollment and Payment of Licensed Providers that Provide Behavior Specialist Consultant Services to Child with Autism Spectrum Disorders," issued May 23, 2014, the Department notified providers that individuals who provide BSC services to children with ASD will need to have a behavior specialist license or other professional license whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD to receive payment through the MA program for providing BSC-ASD services.

As described below, the Department has established a process to enable entities that do not have an outpatient, partial hospitalization, or family based mental health license to enroll in the MA program to provide ABA to children with ASD based on the licenses held by the individuals that will be using BSC-ASD services to provide ABA. These entities will also be able to bill for using TSS services to provide ABA if their approved service description includes TSS.

Entities that do not have a license to provide outpatient, partial hospitalization, or family based mental health services and enroll in the MA program must satisfy all of the Department policies and requirements, including the requirements of the Department bulletins relating to BSC-ASD and TSS, including MA Bulletin 01-94-01; MA Bulletin 01-01-05, "Revisions to Policies and Procedures Relating to Mobile Therapy, Behavior Specialist Consultant and Therapeutic Staff Support Services," issued June 1, 2001; MA Bulletin 01-02-05, "Reissue of Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin Addition of Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Service to the MA Program Fee Schedule," issued March 5, 2002; MA Bulletin 08-06-15, "Revision to Minimum Staff Qualifications of Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) Workers," issued August 24, 2006; OMHSAS-16-02, "Training and Supervision Requirements for Therapeutic Staff Support Workers that Implement Treatment Plans that Include Applied Behavioral Analysis," issued March 11, 2016; and OMHSAS-16-04, "Training Requirements for Licensed Behavior Specialists Who Use Behavioral Specialist Consultant-Autism Spectrum Disorder Services to Provide Applied Behavioral Analysis," issued April 26 2016.

PROCEDURE:

Entities that do not have a license to provide outpatient, partial hospitalization, or family based mental health services and are seeking to enroll based on the license held by the individuals that will be using BSC-ASD services and TSS services to provide ABA to children with ASD must complete a Base Provider Enrollment application for Provider Type 11 and other required documents. **Entities must complete the paper application for Provider Type 11 and submit the required documents by mail, facsimile, or email.**

The application and instructions for enrollment can be accessed at:
<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/index.htm#.V1BURE0UWUk>

Entities seeking to enroll to use BSC-ASD services to provide ABA should enter Specialty Type 561 (Entity BSC-ASD (ABA)) on the enrollment application.

Entities seeking to also use TSS services to provide ABA should also enter Specialty Type 562 (Entity TSS (ABA)) on the enrollment application.

As with all Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services, entities that do not have a license to provide outpatient, partial hospitalization, or family based mental health services must also submit service descriptions for BSC-ASD and TSS services to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Children's Bureau for review and approval. The service description must be approved prior to billing the MA program for using BSC-ASD services or TSS services to provide ABA. The service description format and instructions on how to submit the service description is included in Attachment 1. Since the entities are not licensed, there is no existing Department requirement for clinical oversight of the services. For this reason providers must explain in their service description the clinical supervision and oversight of the services being provided.

Enrollment in the MA program does not automatically enroll the provider in the HealthChoices program. Providers should contact the Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization(s) (BH-MCO) regarding participating in the BH-MCO's network.

Billing for Services

If a licensed psychologist uses BSC-ASD services to provide ABA, use the following procedure code and modifier to bill for BSC-ASD services: H0046 HP+HA.

If a licensed individual other than a psychologist uses BSC-ASD services to provide ABA, use the following procedure code and modifier to bill for BSC-ASD services: H0046 HO+HA.

If TSS services are used to provide ABA, use the following procedure code and modifier to bill for TSS services: H2021 UB+HA.

MA Fee Schedule Rate

The MA fee schedule rate for BSC-ASD services provided by licensed individuals other than a psychologist is \$12.25 per quarter hour. The MA fee schedule rate for BSC-ASD services provided directly by a licensed psychologist is \$15.75 per quarter hour.

Please note: Consistent with MAB 01-94-01, a psychologist may only bill the higher rate for services the psychologist provides.

The MA fee schedule rate for TSS services is 15.00 per half hour.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1 – Format for Service Description for Provider Entities That Use Behavioral Specialist Consultant-Autism Spectrum Disorders (BSC-ASD) and Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) Services to Provide Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Do Not Have a License Specified in MA Bulletin 01-94-01.

Questions should be directed as follows:

Questions related to the PROMISe provider enrollment process can be emailed to RA-PRovApp@pa.gov or by calling 1-800-537-8862

Questions regarding the content of this bulletin can be emailed to: RA-BHRS@pa.gov