IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS

Benefits for the Treatment of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders

The following notice is a summary of new benefits available under your United Behavioral Health (UBH) plan. This summary is for your information only.

Summary

As the result of a new California law, and effective July 1, 2012, coverage is now provided under your plan for professional services and treatment programs for **pervasive developmental disorders or autism**.

If you have any questions regarding these new benefits, please call 888-440-8225, which is the phone number for mental or behavioral health services found on the back of your medical ID card.

What is Covered

- Any professional services or treatment programs, including applied behavior analysis and other evidence-based intervention programs that develop or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of the person with pervasive developmental disorders or autism.
- Please note this coverage is subject to the same requirements as existing mental health benefits, except as noted below.
- These added benefits do NOT negatively impact or reduce existing benefits:
  - of developmentally-disabled and early intervention services for which an individual is eligible under other state and federal programs, or
  - that are provided under an individualized education program, an individualized service plan, or under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Coverage Requirements

- Behavioral Health Treatment/Applied Behavior Analysis (BHT/ABA) must be <u>prescribed</u>:
  - by a California licensed physician and qualified autism service provider*, or
  - through a treatment plan developed by a licensed psychologist.

- Behavioral Health Treatment/Applied Behavior Analysis (BHT/ABA) must be <u>administered</u> by:
  - a qualified autism service provider[1], or

- a qualified autism service professional[2], or
- an autism service paraprofessional[3] employed by, and under the supervision of, a qualified autism provider.

- As a non-routine outpatient service, pre-authorization is required.

To locate an appropriate provider who meets these qualifications please contact UBH at 888-440-8225.

How to Access Services

- Call 888-440-8225 to request pre-authorization for non-routine outpatient services.

What is NOT Covered

- These added benefits do not cover:
  - respite care,
  - daycare,
  - educational services, or
  - reimbursement of a parent/guardian's time and participation in therapy.

1 A "qualified autism service provider" is defined as either of the following:

- A person, entity, or group that is certified by a national entity, such as, but not limited to, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, and who designs, supervises, or provides treatment for pervasive developmental disorders or autism (PDD/A), provided the services are within the experience and competence of the person, entity, or group that is nationally certified; or,
- A person or entity licensed as a physician and surgeon, physical therapist, occupational therapist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist who designs, supervises, or provides treatment for pervasive developmental disorders or autism (PDD/A), provided the services are within the experience and competence of the license.

2 A "qualified autism service professional" is defined as an individual who provides behavioral health treatment, is employed and supervised by a qualified autism service provider, provides treatment pursuant to a treatment plan developed and approved by the qualified autism service provider, is a behavioral service provider approved as a vendor by a California regional center to provide services as an Associate Behavior Analyst, Behavior Analyst, Behavior Management Program, and has training and experience in providing services for pervasive developmental disorders or autism (PDD/A), as specified.

3 A "qualified autism service paraprofessional" is defined as an unlicensed and uncertified individual who is supervised and employed by a qualified autism service provider, provides treatment and implements services pursuant to a treatment plan, meets the criteria set forth in regulations, as specified, and has adequate education, training and experience, as certified by a qualified autism service provider.

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