

Children with Special Health Care Needs Northwest Region

July – September 2017

Northwest Region Representative/Facilitator: Kate Besch



Questions about coverage of behavioral services for children with a Center of Excellence (COE) diagnosis of ASD, and an ABA prescription:

1. Will DDA Waiver pay for any hours over and above what Apple Health/MCO/HCA will cover for behavioral services?

A: In certain situations when the DDA Case Resource Manager is provided with documentation from the MCO or behavior service provider as to what was denied and why it was denied, the DDA Waiver can sometimes fund service hours.

2. Are there other types of services/codes that fall in DDA-funded Behavior Support and Consultation service category, in addition to ABA?

A: Yes, positive behavior support services from a Masters or Doctoral level mental health provider can be covered by DDA Waivers.

3. The DDA Service Code Manual describes *Behavior Support-Individual* and *Behavior Support* services. How do these categories compare with HCA service definitions?

A: DDA behavioral service definitions are not aligned with HCA behavioral services definitions. DDA and HCA are having conversations about that.

4. Who are the current DDA-contracted behavioral health services providers in Whatcom County and which of these providers accept WA Apple Health (e.g., Molina, CHPW, Coordinated Care)?

A: We received a spread sheet with DDA contracted providers, however it is not clear which of these providers are contracted with MCOs as providers.

5. Are the DDA and HCA fee schedules for behavioral services the same, or does one pay more than the other for the same service?

A: Fee schedules differ in many ways. MCOs' fee schedules all vary, so providers should look at their contracts.

6. How do behavioral service providers who are contracted with DDA, but who are not ABA providers, bill for services?

A: Bill through the MCO. If not contracted with MCO, get contracted

7. Are there certain services that can be billed for under the DDA Waiver, but not by an HCA designated ABA provider (e.g., consultation with the school team)?

A: There may be others, but one service that MCOs do not cover is sex offender treatment.

Questions about coverage of behavioral services for children who would benefit from ABA but do not have a COE diagnosis of ASD:

1. Is there *really* a way for a child without a COE diagnosis of ASD to get ABA covered through Apple Health /MCO /HCA?

A: In theory, yes. However, a system for obtaining EPSDT follow-up behavioral healthcare services (including ABA and other behavioral services) for children/youth without a COE ASD diagnosis is not developed at this time.

If so:

2. What does the EPSDT provider prescription/medical necessity letter need to include for a child who does not have a COE diagnosis of ASD and what additional documentation is needed?
3. Where/how should providers submit this documentation?
4. Can DDA case managers assist clients in getting the necessary supporting documents (i.e., diagnostic reports and/or physician prescriptions) to make it possible for ABA providers to submit these authorizations to Apple Health /MCO/HCA?

A: No.

5. Since the Apple Health/MCO/HCA prior authorization process can take up to 6 months, especially if there is a secondary insurer, can DDA Waiver cover services while waiting for an authorization (or denial)?

A: It should not take this long for an MCO to authorize or deny services. In cases like this, the child's DDA case resources manager should contact the DDA Waiver Specialist for assistance

6. If an authorization for ABA services is denied by Apple Health/MCO/HCA, will the DDA Waiver then cover the services?

A: In some cases, yes. Bring denial paperwork to the DDA Case Resources Manager.

7. If an authorization for ABA services is denied by Apple Health/MCO/HCA, would the DDA Waiver cover compensation for the 4-8 hours spent on writing the HCA-required treatment plans?