

# Humana Healthy Horizons™ in Louisiana

<b>Department:</b> Utilization Management	<b>Policy and Procedure No:</b>		
<b>Policy and Procedure Title:</b>			
<b>Process Cycle:</b> Annually		<b>Responsible Departments:</b> Clinical	
<b>Approved By:</b> Patricia Jones, RN		<b>Issue Date:</b> 1/1/23	<b>Revised:</b>

**PURPOSE:** This clinical coverage policy is to identify the clinical criteria and guidelines to review medical necessity and appropriateness for applied behavioral analysis.

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURE:**

**Policy:** Applied Behavioral Analysis

**Procedure:**

### **Applied Behavioral Analysis**

Applied behavioral analysis is medically necessary, as determined by meeting **ALL** the following criteria:

Applied behavioral analysis (ABA) treatment is appropriate in the treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), as indicated by **ALL** of the following

- Enrollee has diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and **ALL** of the following:
  - Moderately severe psychiatric, behavioral or other comorbid conditions
  - Serious dysfunction in daily living for adult or Serious dysfunction in daily living for child or adolescent
- Situation and expectations are appropriate for ABA, as indicated by **ALL** of the following:
  - Recommended treatment is necessary and not appropriate for less intensive care (ie, enrollee behavior, symptoms, or risk is inappropriate for routine outpatient office care).
  - Enrollee is assessed as not at risk of imminent danger to self or others.
  - Treatment is to be administered in setting (e.g., home vs specialized center) and by team (e.g., multidisciplinary) that is specifically designed and compatible with enrollee's needs and abilities.
  - Targeted symptoms, behaviors, and functional impairments related to underlying behavioral health disorder have been identified as appropriate for applied behavioral analysis.
  - Treatment plan addresses comorbid medical, psychiatric, and substance use disorders, and includes coordination of care with other providers and community-based resources, as appropriate.
  - Treatment plan includes explicit and measurable recovery goals that will define enrollee improvement, with regular assessment that progress toward goals is occurring

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or that condition would deteriorate in absence of continued applied behavioral analysis.<sup>[F][G]</sup>

- Treatment plan engages family, caregivers, and other people impacted by and in position to affect enrollee behavior, as appropriate.
- Treatment intensity (ie, number of hours per week) and duration (ie, length of service intervention) is individualized and designed to meet needs of enrollee and adjusted as is clinically appropriate; program selection impacts intensity and duration, and may include **1 or more** of the following:
  - Comprehensive ABA for enrollees with ASK who are 1 to 12 years of age and require program designed to address multiple areas of behavioral functional impairment in coordinated manner
  - Focused ABA, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following:
    - Enrollees with ASD who are 1 to 12 years of age and **1 or more** of the following:
      - Residual core ASD symptoms are still present despite completion of course of comprehensive therapy.
      - Enrollee is currently enrolled in comprehensive ABA program but lacks significant progress toward treatment goals (ie, focused ABA services are added as adjunct to comprehensive ABA program).
      - Focal deficits are present (eg, isolated impairment in verbal communication) that are appropriate for targeted behavioral intervention in enrollees who are not enrolled in comprehensive ABA treatment program.
      - Enrollees with ASD who are 13 years of age or older and have focal deficits (eg, isolated impairment in verbal communications) that are appropriate for targeted behavioral intervention
      - Enrollee is expected to be able to adequately participate in and respond as planned to proposed treatment.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

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MCG Heath: Behavioral Health Care 26<sup>th</sup> Edition. Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Medicaid Applied Behavior Analysis Provider Manual: *Chapter Four of the Medicaid Services Manual*; Issued 07/16/21 [ABA.pdf \(lamedicaid.com\)](#). Accessed August 17, 2022.

## **VERSION CONTROL:**

<b>Version.Review.Approval History</b>				
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Purpose of Review</b>	<b>Reviewed and Approved By:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Additional Comments:</b>
Clinical	Policy Development	Samantha Pacheco	8/18/2022	
Clinical	Policy Review	Patricia Jones/Cali Brou	8/22/2022	
Clinical	Policy Review	Dr. Ian Nathanson, VP Medicaid Clinical	8/22/2022	
Clinical	Adoption Review	Medicaid Quality Governance Committee	8/25/2022	Committee approved. Ben Thompson, Committee Chair

## **DISCLAIMER:**

Humana follows all federal and state laws and regulations. Where more than one state is impacted by an issue, to allow for consistency, Humana will follow the most stringent requirement.

This document is intended as a guideline. Situations may arise in which professional judgment may necessitate actions that differ from the guideline. Circumstances that justify the variation from the guideline should be noted and submitted to the appropriate business area for review and documentation. This (policy/procedure) is subject to change or termination by Humana at any time. Humana has full and final discretionary authority for its interpretation and application. This (policy/procedure) supersedes all other policies, requirements, procedures or information conflicting with it. If viewing a printed version of this document, please refer to the electronic copy maintained by CMU to ensure no modifications have been made.

## **NON-COMPLIANCE:**

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Any unlawful act involving Humana systems or information may result in Humana turning over all evidence of unlawful activity to appropriate authorities. Information on handling sanctions related to non-compliance with this policy may be found in the Expectations for Performance, and Critical Offenses policies, both of which may be found in the Associate Support Center via Humana's secure intranet of Hi! (Workday & Apps/Associate Support Center).

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