

Autism Strategic Plan

Autism Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2023 through 2026. Developed in conjunction with Autism Subject Matter Experts, Community Mental Health Partners, Community Providers and Stakeholders.

Develop Comprehensive UM Policy for ABA

Prior approval of ABA services is a PIHP requirement. The purpose of this plan will be to develop a set of policies and procedures in order to meet this obligation. This will include both delegated and internal tasks. This plan will focus primarily on established and ongoing treatment, but does have overlap with the medical necessity determination plan.

Objectives

(No particular order)

1. Policy to follow MPM section 18.10: PIHP will prior auth ABA services
2. Ensure services are being delivered at the appropriate intensity, setting, period of time, and based on consumer and caregiver needs.
3. Identify areas of opportunity for improvement and theme across providers

Action Plan (No particular order)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Lead (LRE/ROAT)	Target Date
a) Develop Written Utilization Management process for LRE		X			LRE/ Autism team	FY24
b) Present individual UM policies by CMH within AR ROAT		X	X		Autism ROAT	FY25
c) Develop subgroup of AR ROAT to develop regional consistent policy		X	X		Autism ROAT	FY25
d) Establish outcome measure	X	X			LRE Autism Team	FY24
e) Approve UM policy through AR, UM, PVN, and Clinical ROATS		X	X		Autism ROAT	FY25
f) Provide Training to CMHs and Providers		X	X	X	Autism ROAT	FY26
g) Develop Dashboard reports specific to UM	X	X	X	X	LRE/Autism and IT teams	FY26
h) Review effectiveness annually	X	X	X	X	Autism ROAT	Oct 1 annually

Develop consistency for ABA Medical Necessity Determination

Medical necessity determination is a hallmark of how to effectively and efficiently deliver all services that beneficiaries are entitled within the Medicaid behavioral health carve out. Medical necessity determination must be completed as services are authorized. The purpose of this plan is to establish policies and procedures across the region to improve consistency of medical necessity determinations

for ABA services. This plan will focus primarily on initial eligibility of ABA services, but does have some overlap with the comprehensive UM plan.

Objectives

1. Develop consistency of Medical Necessity Determination across the region
2. Ensure eligibility is based on criteria set in the MPM sections: 18.3, 18.4, 18.5, and 2.5
3. Ensure services are being delivered at the appropriate intensity, setting, period of time, and based on consumer and caregiver needs.
4. Improve clarity and consistency of medical necessity criteria including discharge and transition criteria.
5. Improve competency of *Case Management* staff and *Eligibility Assessing* staff
6. Support implementation of ABA parent handbook, participation agreement, and transition and discharge guidelines.

Action Plan	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Lead (LRE/ROAT)	Target Date
a) Develop ABA documents through Autism ROAT, including ABA parent handbook, Participation agreement, and transition guidelines	X				Autism ROAT	FY23
b) Develop and record training for CMHs and ABA Providers regarding ABA parent handbook, Participation agreement, and transition guidelines	X					FY23
c) Evaluate the need for additional trainings and implement	X	X	X	X		FY26
d) Define Medical Necessity throughout services (From diagnosis through discharge) Develop final product through subgroup of Autism ROAT, UM ROAT	X	X			Autism and UM ROATs	FY24
e) Develop recommendations for state wide determination of service intensity and Level of Care determination of ABA services. Review current criteria, and assessment tools, and provide recommendation through PIHP Leads workgroup.	X	X	X		LRE/Autism Team	FY25
f) Support customer service staff related to Autism services appeals related to eligibility, discharge, and utilization management. Review and consult regularly, and provide trainings as needed.	X	X	X	X	LRE/Autism Team	FY26

Delivery Date Range Color Key:

Not Started	Started – Not Complete	Completed or Near Completed
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g) Evaluation through site reviews of agency providing ABA service	X	X	X	X	LRE/Autism Team	FY26
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Manage List of individuals waiting for ABA services

ABA/BHT services is a valuable and effective treatment for many individuals with a diagnosis of autism. Once a conflict free evaluator determines ABA services are medically necessary and beneficial, direct treatment should begin as soon as possible. The purpose of this plan is to improve transparency of wait times for ABA/BHT services, identify roadblocks and barriers to receiving effective service, develop a regional standard for timeline expectation, and improve access to timely, quality care.

Objectives

(In no particular order)

1. Develop quality ABA services Dashboard Normed to service delivery.
2. Ensure all consumers receiving eligibility determination for ABA in a timely manner
3. Ensure all consumers receiving Medically necessary ABA services in a timely manner
4. Strengthen competency of auxiliary service providers to ensure additional quality treatments are available for consumers with an Autism diagnosis beyond ABA.
5. Increase the number of consumers closed due to meeting treatment goals
6. Increase treatment focus on caregiver involvement

Action Plan	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Lead (LRE/ROAT)	Target Date
a) Review all current Corrective Action Plans (CAP) from CMHs and determine effectiveness and evaluate the need for modifications	X	X	X	X		FY26
b) Develop Autism services Dashboards as needed	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism and IT Teams	FY26
c) Provide CMH access to reports for regional comparison	X	X	X	X	Autism and IT ROAT	FY26
d) Develop file submission process for tracking ABA services.	X					FY23
e) Track ABA referrals and active treatment episodes to identify areas of need and network adequacy.	X	X	X	X	Autism ROAT	FY23
f) Present ABA access data to Autism ROAT and Clinical ROAT on a quarterly basis for review and action plan	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY26
g) Present ABA closure reason data to Autism and UM ROATs on a	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY26

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quarterly basis for review and action plan.						
h) Present ABA Caregiver Training data to Autism and Clinical and UM ROATs on a quarterly basis for review and action plan	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY26
i) Monitor the quality of discharge planning, and step-down services through the site review process	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY26
j) Facilitate training opportunities for evidence-based treatments beyond ABA (ACT, PMTO, etc), to help with transition plans et al.		X	X	X		FY25

Support CMHs in Strengthening ABA Provider Network

The majority of ABA/BHT services provided at the LRE are through the CMH external provider network. Allegan, Ottawa, and Network 180 exclusively use their provider network for these services, and the remaining CMHs use a combination of internal and external treatment providers. The strength of the ABA provider network, therefore, is substantially important for ensuring timely, quality, and efficient care. This plan will focus on identifying problems within the provider network, areas of opportunity, and communication improvements.

Objectives

(In no particular order)

1. Develop ABA services Dashboard Normed to service delivery by CMH and external providers
2. Strengthen competency of auxiliary service providers to ensure additional quality treatments are available for consumers with an Autism diagnosis.
3. Increase Provider Capacity
4. Explore VBM for ABA services

Action Plan (In no particular order)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Lead (LRE/ROAT)	Target Date
a) Provide Training for ABA services Documents	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY23
b) Host and Chair quarterly ABA Provider Network meetings	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY23
c) Availability of case consultation with QLP/BCBA	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY23
d) Vet and disseminate appropriate ABA providers within the region	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY23
e) Assess level of available providers in the region currently and recommend changes	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY25

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f) Through the site review process, ensure consistency of treatment implementation. Ensure a broad sample of ABA providers are included in each annual site review	X	X	X	X	LRE Autism Team	FY23
g) Review examples of Value Based Model services for ABA and explore appropriateness and viability of this model within the region.		X			Autism ROAT	FY24

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