

BCN to use InterQual® ABA criteria for prior authorization requests submitted starting Oct. 1

For prior authorization requests submitted for BCN commercial members on or after Oct. 1, 2022, Blue Care Network will use Change Healthcare's InterQual Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment criteria to make determinations.

For requests submitted prior to Oct. 1, BCN will use its local rules as follows:

- For requests submitted Aug. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2022, BCN will use these [local rules for autism spectrum disorder / applied behavior analysis](#) (PDF)
- For requests submitted Aug. 2, 2021, through July 31, 2022, BCN uses these [local rules for autism spectrum disorder / applied behavior analysis](#) (PDF)

Why we're changing to InterQual criteria for ABA

We're changing to the InterQual Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment criteria for autism spectrum disorders because those criteria:

- Are used nationally, are recognized across both medical and behavioral health care and are based on sound clinical evidence
- Are routinely reviewed and supported throughout the year by a full-time clinical review staff with extensive experience and expertise in applied behavior analysis, or ABA
- Are based on a review of guidelines published by specialty colleges and other reliable sources in evidence-based literature and in general medical literature, with input from consultants
- Have already been updated with criteria specific to patients 19 years of age and older, including moving from school-based criteria to criteria related to workplace or community engagement

What providers can expect to see with the change

As a result of BCN's change to using the InterQual ABA criteria for autism spectrum disorders, here are some (but not all) of the things providers can expect to see:

- A wide range of age-appropriate goal areas, such as social engagement, educational participation, activities of daily living, or ADLs, and instrumental activities of daily living, or IADLs
- More specific percentage ranges for goals achieved and goals in progress
- Footnotes for criteria, to provide guidance to both providers and clinical reviewers in standardizing evaluations and information

How to request criteria

Providers can contact BCN Behavioral Health at 1-800-482-5982:

- To request the criteria used in a determination for a specific prior authorization request
- With questions about our change to the InterQual criteria for ABA or about the criteria itself