

We'll use updated ABA supplemental policy starting April 22

For dates of service on or after April 22, 2025, Blue Cross Behavioral HealthSM will use the updated [Applied Behavioral Analysis \(ABA\) Supplemental Policy](#) when making determinations on prior authorization requests.

We made the following changes in the updated policy:

Section	Subsection	Significant changes
Initial Coverage Criteria	Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reformatted to make the diagnostic criteria easier to use and review. Updated the list of specific diagnostic instruments to be used to determine autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, diagnosis and level of severity.
	Initial Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reformatted the subsection (previously named <i>Treatment</i>) to make it easier to use and review initial treatment criteria. Added specific requirements for frequency and duration of caregiver involvement or parent/caregiver training (minimum two hours per month). Added specific requirements for supervision of direct treatment staff (minimum of 5% of direct hours).
Evaluation and Treatment Criteria	Treatment	<p>Expanded to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More detailed guidelines on continued ABA treatment Alternate services that may be more appropriate for members and their families who are making progress, such as individual outpatient psychotherapy/cognitive behavioral therapy or family therapy
	Continued Treatment	<p>Expanded to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include steps to assist pediatric members in transitioning to adulthood Outline expectations for adjustment of treatment plans in response to member improvement or lack thereof

Blue Cross Behavioral Health manages prior authorization for behavioral health services for:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan commercial members
- Medicare Plus Blue members
- Blue Care Network Commercial members



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Provider alert

Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
BCN commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Categories: Authorizations/referrals, Behavioral health

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- BCN AdvantageSM members

To view the updated policy, see the Behavioral Health Services section on either of the following webpages on **bcbsm.com**:

- For commercial members: [Services That Need Prior Authorization](#)
- For Medicare Advantage members: [Medicare Advantage Prior Authorization](#)

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