

April 29, 2015

CMS issued guidance to States in July 2014 mandating coverage for autism disorder in State plans. Currently, the state plan covers only ancillary components of autism disorder services, e.g., speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy. Formal autism disorder services are currently covered via the Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) Waiver. There are 668 beneficiaries enrolled in the PDD waiver and 1,451 beneficiaries on the waitlist.

In order to immediately meet the needs of beneficiaries with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) established an interim/temporary process by which Healthy Connections Medicaid members can access ASD services that are identified as medically necessary based on an Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) encounter.

Members 0-21 are eligible to submit requests for ASD, including members currently on the PDD Waiver waiting list as well as those whose PDD Waiver services have expired.

The following documents are necessary to process an ASD request and can be sent to [autism@scdhhs.gov](mailto:autism@scdhhs.gov):

- Results of an EPSDT visit that demonstrates the medical necessity for ASD services
- An attestation by a doctor, developmental pediatrician or current provider with treatment recommendations (e.g., specific problem behaviors to be addressed), including recommended hours
- A comprehensive assessment report that confirms the presence of ASD
  - The report must include developmental history, a detailed description of observed behavior, and results from standardized ASD diagnostic tools, as applicable. The diagnostic assessment must have been performed by a qualified examiner with training in the assessment of children and youth with ASD.
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) or (DSM-5) diagnostic profile, to establish proof of met criteria
- Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (CHAT) or Modified-CHAT assessment form, if applicable
- Medical profile (e.g., summary of pediatric visits and/or medically complex history)
- Speech and language therapy notes, if applicable
- Family history (including, but not limited to, family history of ASD)
- Past therapies profile sheet (e.g., therapy modalities, duration, outcome, etc.)
- Genetic testing, if applicable

SCDHHS is currently establishing parameters for a comprehensive state plan package that will authorize evidenced based practices, including, but not limited to, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), to be provided to beneficiaries who meet the medical necessity criteria for an ASD. This plan will include guidelines regarding provider qualifications, provider credentials, authorized treatment modalities, as well as rates for services. The projected implementation date for the state plan package is Fall of 2015.