

## Autism Rider

This rider outlines the coverage provided for treatment of autism in covered children under the age of Nineteen (19).

Unless otherwise specified all other provisions of the Benefit Description apply to benefits outlined in this Autism Rider, including deductibles, copays, coinsurance, network provider arrangements and prior authorization.

### **Definitions:**

**Autism Spectrum Disorder:** means the following disorders within the autism spectrum:

- Autistic disorder,
- Asperger's syndrome, and
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS),

as specified within the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, fourth edition, text revision (DSM-IV-TR), of the American psychiatric association.

**Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA):** means the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.

**Autism Specialist:** means a person who:

- Has at least a masters degree in human services or education or fully Board Certified Behavior Analysis; and
- Maintains all standards, certifications, and licenses required for their specific Professional field; and
- Has successfully completed the state approved curriculum and passed the test with a score of at least 80%; and
- Has 2,000 hours of supervised experience working with a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder; and
- Has successfully passed a background check with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), or Adult Protective Services (APS), or Child Protective Services (CPS), or Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), or the Kansas Nurse Aid Registry, and the Motor Vehicle screen; and
- Is a Medicaid Enrolled Provider

**Comprehensive Assessment:** means completion (by an appropriate professional) and submission of results of:

- A Vineland II Survey Interview Adaptive Behavior Scales by an qualified evaluator who is a level 3 user based on the Pearson Assessments; and
- An IQ Test (optional); and
- A Neurological evaluation by a medical doctor to rule-out primary neurological disorder; and
- A lead poisoning assessment; and
- A Speech Assessment to rule-out primary speech disorder; and

- A Hearing Assessment to rule-out primary hearing disorder; and
- DSM-IV Diagnostic Criteria; and
- An Assessment by one of the following:
  - Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (CHAT); or
  - Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS); or
  - Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT); or
  - Screening Tool for Autism in two-year olds (STAT); or
  - Social communication Questionnaire (SCQ) (recommended for children four-years of age or older); or
  - Autism Behavior checklist (ABC); or
  - Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS); or
  - Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale (ADOS); or
  - Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI).
  - Autism Spectrum Screening Questionnaire (ASSQ); or
  - Childhood Asperger Syndrome Test (CAST); or
  - Krug Asperger’s Disorder Syndrome (ASAS); or
  - Australian Scale for Asperger Syndrome (ASDS); or
  - Asperger Syndrome Diagnostic Scale (ASDS).
  - Pervasive Developmental Disabilities Screening Test (PDD-ST).

**Intensive Individual Service Provider:** means a person who:

- Has at least a bachelors degree in human services or education; and
- Maintains all standards, certifications, and licenses required for their specific license/certification; and
- Has successfully completed the state approved curriculum and passed the test with a score of at least 80%; and
- Has 1,000 hours of supervised experience working with a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder; and
- Has successfully passed a background check with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), or Adult Protective Services (APS), or Child Protective Services (CPS), or Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), or the Kansas Nurse Aid Registry, and the Motor Vehicle screen; and
- Adheres to the DBHS/CSS training and professional development requirements; and
- Is a KMAP Enrolled Provider for intensive individual supports; and
- Works under the direction and supervision of an Autism Specialist.

**Periodic Assessment:** means an evaluation that shows an assessment of the improvement in the individual based upon the diagnosis and approved treatment plan. Timing of the periodic assessments will be based upon the treatment plan, but no less than every six months. Statistically significant improvement in the stated goals and objectives of treatment must be achieved to authorize continued treatment. A Vineland II Survey will be required on at least an annual basis. An annual IQ test is optional.

**Treatment Plan means:** A submission by a provider or group of providers and signed by both the provider(s) and parent(s)/caregiver(s) that includes:

- the type of therapy to be administered and methods of intervention,
- the goals, including

- specific problems or behaviors requiring treatment
- frequency of services to be provided
- frequency of parent or caregiver participation at therapy sessions
- description of supervision, and
- periodic measures for the therapy, including the frequency at which goals will be reviewed and updated,
- who will administer the therapy, and
- the patient's current ability to perform the desired results of the therapy.

**Benefit Provisions:**

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Coverage is available for the diagnosis and treatment of ASD as defined. Diagnosis shall be the appropriate listed assessment instrument from the listed options, performed by an appropriately licensed medical provider. Benefits must be pre-approved by the Plan and may include Applied Behavioral Therapy, developmental Speech Therapy, developmental Occupational Therapy, or developmental Physical Therapy as appropriate. Periodic re-evaluations and assessments are required and continuous improvement must be shown in order to qualify for continued treatment. Results of a Vineland II Survey will be required for the initial assessment to establish a baseline and must be repeated at least annually to establish improvement.

Services are limited as follows:

- Coverage limits for Network and Non Network services combined:
  - Children under age 7 limited to \$36,000/year
  - Children age 7-19 limited to \$27,000/year
  - Children age 19 and over, not covered

All services are subject to the applicable deductible, coinsurance and copay arrangements of the health plan. Providers will be reimbursed based upon network status.

All health claims with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder will be subject to the limitations stated above.

**Prior Approval:** To qualify for this benefit, a comprehensive assessment may be required (see submission guidelines below). The treatment plan must be submitted to the Plan Administrator in advance of the initiation of treatment and outline measurable goals and objectives for treatment of the member. Benefits will be provided for the initial Comprehensive Assessment whether or not the member is approved for continued treatment. If approved for continued treatment, benefits will be available only for services received following the approval of the treatment plan.

The provider must submit:

- For newly diagnosed members with eligible autism diagnosis, a Comprehensive Assessment must be completed and submitted within 90 days of treatment beginning under this rider.
- All members must have a treatment plan detailing the individuals who will be performing the various therapies and/or interventions and the type and frequency of the services to be performed. Services must be pre-approved by the health plan. Periodic Assessments must be

submitted no less than every six months and include objective evidence of progress (a Vineland Survey).

**Exclusions:**

- Respite care
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Residential care
- Transportation
- Animal based therapy programs
- Hydro Therapy
- Camps
- Vitamin Therapy
- Programs and/or services administered within the Public, Private or Home School
- Vocational or Job training programs
- Services provided by relatives