

# Quick Reference Guide: Children with Special Needs (CWSN)

## Early Intervention Services (EI) 0-3 Years

- Referral source or parent contacts District of Columbia Early Intervention program (Strong Start) to request EI services.
- Child is evaluated and eligibility for EI services is determined.
- Child is referred to AmeriHealth Caritas DC's network of EI service providers.
- EI service provider goes through AmeriHealth Caritas DC's pre-authorization and re-authorization process.

## Special Education Services (SES) 3-5 Years (Pre-School) and 5-21 (Kindergarten-Twelfth Grade)

- Child is transitioned out of EI services.
- Child is evaluated and eligibility for SES services is determined.
- Child is referred to AmeriHealth Caritas DC's provider network if SES services are not provided at school.
- Service provider goes through AmeriHealth Caritas DC's pre-authorization and re-authorization process.
- Service provider needs to include a referral from PCP with pre-authorization form for non-SES eligible children.

## Treatment Requests, Pre-Authorizations and Re-Authorizations

- Initial authorizations are for three (3) months.
- Re-authorizations are for three (3) months.
- AmeriHealth Caritas DC reserves the right to adjust the length of the authorization period on a case-by-case basis.
- Initial treatment requests must include:
  - Evidence of Diagnosis
  - Treatment Plan
- Request for assessments should include hours, type of assessment and clinical justification for the hours being requested.

## Concurrent Reviews

- Re-authorization requests and documentation must be submitted three (3) weeks prior to the end of the authorized period.
- Submit treatment update with graphical display of progress, including:
  - Mastered Targets
  - Continuing Targets
  - New Goals
  - Include explanation of behavior patterns and lack of progress.
- Treatment updates should also include:
  - Hours and Codes
  - Psychological Update
  - Goals
  - Transition Plan
  - Crisis Management Plan
  - Supervision Protocol (where applicable)

## Treatment Plan Requirements

- Meets Medical Necessity
- Goals Must be: Objective, Measurable and Related to the Main Deficits of Autism
- Baseline and Mastery Criteria
- Transition Plan to Lower Level of Care
- Crisis Management and Behavior Reduction Plan
- Parent Goals
- Psychological Documentation
- Supervision and Treatment Planning Hours

## Treatment Update Requirements

- Mastered Behavior Targets
- Continuous Behavior Targets
- Goals (New Goals and Baseline)
- Psychological Update
- Behavior Data with Explanation of Any Lack of Progress
- Crisis Management Plan
- Transition Plan
- Supervision Protocol (only applicable to agencies providing ABA services)
- Hours and Codes Requested for Subsequent Treatment Period
- Re-Authorization Approval Notification Sent to Parent and Provider

## Denials

- ABA Therapies that are not evidence based and, therefore, do not demonstrate a beneficial health outcome.
- ABA Treatment that is inconsistent with accepted standards of practice or AmeriHealth Caritas DC's best practice guidelines for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- Services that are covered as part of the Individual Education Plan.
- Treatment Plans that do not take into consideration AmeriHealth Caritas DC's stated requirements, e.g. Treatment Plans that do not reflect coordination of care with other providers.
- Treatment updates that do not take into consideration AmeriHealth Caritas DC's stated requirements, e.g. treatment updates that do not contain a graphical display of behavior data.
- Treatment that does not meet Medical Necessity criteria.
- ABA services that exceed the necessary period for effective treatment, diagnosis, evaluation and crisis intervention.

## Assessment Types

- Skills Assessment:**  
Speech and Language (ABLLS, VB-MAPP, etc.)
- Behavior Assessment:**  
Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)
- Cognitive Assessment:**  
Wechsler Intelligence Scales
- Developmental Assessment:**  
Battelle Developmental Inventory 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (BDI-2)

## Reimbursement Codes

CPT Code	Description
98960-HO	Cognitive Skills Development (ABA Services rendered by BCBA)
98960-HN	Cognitive Skills Development (ABA services rendered by BCaBA)
99080	ABA Treatment Plan Update
97532	Developmental Therapy-Special Instruction
55108	Behavior Assessment & Initial Treatment Plan Single Clinician
55108.HT	Behavior Assessment & Initial Treatment Plan Multi-Clinician
96110.HT	Developmental Assessment (BDI) Multi-Clinician
96111	Developmental Evaluation and Assessment (AEPS)

Reimbursement is based on a contractual or single case agreement with AmeriHealth Caritas DC.

