

Accessing MassHealth In-home ABA

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)¹

ABA is a set of principles that form the basis for many behavioral treatments. ABA therapy is used to increase language and communication skills. It is also used to improve attention, focus, social skills, memory, and academics. ABA can be used to help decrease problem behaviors.

ABA therapy includes many different techniques. All of these techniques focus on antecedents (what happens before a behavior occurs) and on consequences (what happens after the behavior). One technique is “positive reinforcement.” When a behavior is followed by something that is valued (a reward), that behavior is more likely to be repeated.

Eligibility²

- Child diagnosed with autism under 21 years old enrolled in MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth.
- Child diagnosed with autism under age 19 enrolled in MassHealth Family Assistance.

Process

- Child’s clinician (usually a developmental pediatrician, neurologist, psychologist), recommends ABA.
- Family locates an ABA provider through their MassHealth Managed Care Entity (MCE).
- The provider requests authorization for ABA from MassHealth, performs an initial evaluation, and develops a treatment plan.

Managed Care Entity (MCE)	ABA covered through:
Mass Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)	Mass Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)
Health New England (HNE)	Mass Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)
Boston Medical Center Health Plan (BMCHP)	Beacon Health Options
Fallon Community Health Plan	Beacon Health Options
Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP)	Beacon Health Options
Tufts Health Public Plans	Tufts Health Public Plans

Documents needed:

- ◇ Medical necessity letter from child’s clinician (usually a developmental pediatrician, neurologist, psychologist), recommending ABA.
- ◇ Autism diagnostic report



EXCEPTIONAL CARE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

¹ Applied Behavioral Analysis, A Parent’s Guide Tool Kit. Autism Speaks.

² www.disabilityinfo.org/ARICA/insuranceinfo.aspx#faq12