



**Changes to Prior Authorization Requirements
Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy – Medicaid
Updated to include H2020, 97151, 0362T and 0373T
FAQs for Internal and External Use 12/7/2021**

Effective August 1, 2020 requirements for prior authorization (PA) with Molina Healthcare of Washington will change for the following CPT and HCPCS codes related to Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy. This benefit is only available for Apple Health (Medicaid) members 20 years of age and younger. This change does not apply to Marketplace members.

- **H2020** – Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Day Treatment Program (Day Treatment Program). For participating providers, the initial 48 service days will not require PA. After the initial 48 service days, any request for additional H2020 service days will require a PA. All requests for H2020 by non-participating providers will require a PA. H2020 initial 48 service days will not require a PA for children age 2-5, services for children ≥ 6 years will require a PA. Please notify Molina if a member will turn 6 during their first 48 service days of H2020.
- **97151** – Limitation Extension requests will be required for > 28 units per assessment, 2 assessments per year
- **0362T** – Limitation Extension requests will be required for > 8 units (2 hours of assessment), 3 assessments per year
- **0373T** – Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification will require PA

Referral to a Center of Excellence (COE) for an evaluation of autism does not require PA. Molina will require a PA for both participating and non-participating providers for claims submitted for any place of service. Below is a list of codes that will require a PA.

Molina will grant authorizations in three-to-six-month increments, based on medical necessity. Three weeks before the expiration date of the current authorization, the ABA Therapy provider must request another authorization to continue authorized services.

Notice was sent to the provider community on 3/13/2020 for codes 97153, 97154, 97155 and 97158. Notice was sent to provider community on 5/30/2020 for codes H2020; 97151; 0362T and 0373T

| Question | Answer |
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| Why is Molina making this change? | Molina wants to ensure our members receive timely, high quality and integrated care. By implementing a PA process, Molina can better understand our network strengths and challenges, drawing upon these when referring our members. We can identify and assist our members with accessing all services needed to help our members reach optimal developmental goals. |



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| <p>What codes require a PA for ABA Therapy?</p> | <p>Beginning 5/12/2020 the following began to require PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97153 – Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol: CBT, 15-minute units • 97154 – Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol: 15-minute units – Two or more clients • 97155 Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification: LBAT and possible CBT 15-minute units • 97158 Group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification: 15-minute unit LBAT <p>Beginning 8/1/2020 the following codes will require review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H2020 – Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Day Treatment Program (Day Treatment Program). For participating providers, the initial 48 service days will not require PA. After the initial 48 service days, any request for additional H2020 service days will require a PA. All requests for H2020 by non-participating providers will require a PA. • 97151 – Behavioral Identification Assessment – Limitation Extension requests will be required for > 28 units per assessment, 2 assessments per year • 0362T – Functional analysis for severe maladaptive behavior in specific setting Limitation Extension requests will be required for > 8 units (2 hours of assessment), 3 assessments per year • 0373T – Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification will require a PA |



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| <p>What changes are being made to the implementation of a PA requirements for H2020?</p> | <p>For participating providers, the initial 48 service days will not require PA. After the initial 48 service days, any request for additional H2020 service days will require a PA. All request for H2020 by non-participating providers will require a PA. This service is typically used for children ages 2-5 years. Requests beyond a total of 48 service days between ages 2-5 or requests for children Greater than or equal to ≥ 6 years will require a PA.</p> |
| <p>What is the difference between 97151 and 97155?</p> | <p>According to the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) Billing Guide for ABA Treatment, 97151 should be used for functional assessment and analysis/ treatment plan development. Comments in the Provider Guide note this is allowed up to 28 units (7 hours)/2 assessments per year.</p> <p>While 97155 is used with individual treatment where protocol modification is performed by the LBAT.</p> |
| <p>What if I have used > 56 units of 97151 and the 6-month assessment is due after 8/1/2020?</p> | <p>If you have used > 56 units of 97151 and the 6-month assessment is due between 8/1 – 12/31/2020 please request a Limitation Extension for this time period. If you need to request more than 28 units (7 hours) for a re-assessment, please indicate medical necessity regarding the extended assessment</p> |
| <p>What criteria will Molina use to review H2020 Day Treatment requests?</p> | <p>Molina follows WAC Chapter 182-531A and MCG Health Behavioral Health Care 25th Edition regarding need for Day Treatment beyond 48 service days.</p> |



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| <p>What supporting documentation is required when requesting additional service days beyond initial 48 days for H2020 Day Treatment Program?</p> | <p>Justification for the need to provide additional intensive Day Treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABA assessments, functional behavior assessments or analysis, and treatment plans • All collected client data and graphs • Documentation of 12 occurrences of direct, individualized caregiver training with an LBA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Notes supporting parenting training, including but not limited to, sign-in sheets if service was provided in a group setting and description of content. • Documentation of 3 occurrences of care coordination/discharge planning to help families access or transition into outside services as needed • Documentation of 12 occurrences of direct, individualized speech therapy with an SLP. |
| <p>Where can providers find the PA forms for services?</p> | <p>PA forms can be found on the Molina provider website at https://www.MolinaHealthcare.com/providers/wa/medicaid/forms/Pages/fuf.aspx</p> |
| <p>What are the current rates for ABA Therapy?</p> | <p>The ABA program and fee schedules are available in the HCA Provider Guide. https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/prior-authorization-claims-and-billing/provider-billing-guides-and-fee-schedules</p> |
| <p>Who at Molina will manage and review these authorizations and what are their credentials?</p> | <p>Requests for ABA Therapy will be reviewed and authorized by Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA), who collaborate as needed with our plan behavioral health medical directors. Providers are encouraged to reach out to Molina’s designated LBAs should they have questions surrounding the ABA benefit at Molina.</p> |



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| If a provider needs additional assistance to obtain a PA, who can they contact? | Phone: (509) 321-1365 Medical/Behavioral Services Fax: (800) 767-7188 |
| For general questions, who should providers contact? | <u>Children’s Behavioral Health Clinical Manager</u> Libby Hein (425) 276-2263 Libby.Hein@MolinaHealthcare.com <u>Health Care Services UM Director</u> Laurie McCraney (425) 405-5998 Laurie.McCraney@MolinaHealthcare.com <u>Behavioral Health UM Manager for PA ABA Services</u> Denise Kohler (425) 270-1643 Denise.Kohler@MolinaHealthcare.com |