

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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Applied Behavior Analysis: Precertification Limits

Applies to: Providers of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services

Effective date: June 28, 2023

- **PRECERTIFICATION LIMITS FOR ABA ASSESSMENT**
- **DAILY MAXIMUM QUANTITIES FOR BILLING – ABA ASSESSMENT**
- **PRECERTIFICATION LIMITS FOR ABA INTERVENTION**
- **DAILY MAXIMUM QUANTITY LIMITS FOR BILLING – ABA INTERVENTION**
- **CLINICAL EXCEPTION REQUESTS**
- **APPLICABILITY**

The tables below provide the precertification limits for ABA assessment and intervention. Precertification's for ABA services indicate the total number of hours approved and are issued for a six month duration from the start date. MHD has adopted the standard unit definitions per the American Medical Association (AMA), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), which are 15 minute units for ABA services. MHD has not previously published ABA precertification limits. Daily Maximum quantities for billing are also provided below for convenience.

PRECERTIFICATION LIMITS FOR ABA ASSESSMENT

CPT® Code Description	Procedure Code	Max Units for Assessment Precertification	Max Hours for Assessment Precertification
BHV ID ASSMT BY PHYS/QHP	97151	32 Units	8 Hours
BHV ID SUPRT ASSMT BY 1 TECH	97152	100 Units	25 Hours
BHV ID SUPRT ASSMT EA 15 MIN	0362T	48 Units	12 Hours
TOTAL MAX HOURS FOR ASSESSMENT			45 Hours

DAILY MAXIMUM QUANTITY LIMITS FOR BILLING – ABA ASSESSMENT

CPT® Code Description	Procedure Code	Max Daily Quantity
BHV ID ASSMT BY PHYS/QHP	97151	32 Units
BHV ID SUPRT ASSMT BY 1 TECH	97152	16 Units
BHV ID SUPRT ASSMT EA 15 MIN	0362T	16 Units

PRECERTIFICATION LIMITS FOR ABA INTERVENTION

CPT® Code Description	Procedure Code	Max Units for 6 month Intervention Precertification	Max Hours for 6 month intervention Precertification
ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TX BY TECH	97153	3600 Units	900 Hours
ADAPT BEHAVIOR TX PHYS/QHP	97155	1620 Units	405 Hours
FAM ADAPT BHV TX GDN PHY/QHP	97156	240 Units	60 Hours
GRP ADAPT BHV TX BY PHY/QHP	97158	540 Units	135 Hours
ADAPT BHV TX EA 15 MIN	0373T	1920 Units	480 Hours
Max Total Intervention Hours			1040 Hours / 6 months

DAILY MAXIMUM QUANTITY LIMITS FOR BILLING – ABA INTERVENTION

CPT® Code Description	Procedure Code	Max Daily Quantity
ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TX BY TECH	97153	32 Units
ADAPT BEHAVIOR TX PHYS/QHP	97155	24 Units
FAM ADAPT BHV TX GDN PHY/QHP	97156	16 Units
GRP ADAPT BHV TX BY PHY/QHP	97158	6 Units
ADAPT BHV TX EA 15 MIN	0373T	32 Units

CLINICAL EXCEPTION REQUESTS

If additional hours are needed beyond the above limits, providers may request a clinical exception. For example, if a child's intervention plan includes 40 hours weekly of treatment by

technician plus additional hours of protocol modification and family guidance, a clinical exception is needed as this would exceed the 1040 hour maximum.

Clinical exception requests are reviewed by a licensed behavior analyst to determine medical necessity. Requests must include a completed [precertification form](#), a letter with clinical rationale, and supporting documentation:

- For an initial intervention request, the supporting documentation must include the assessment for intervention planning and the intervention plan.
- For a continued intervention request, the supporting documentation must include the current intervention plan and progress data/graphs.

APPLICABILITY

The information in this bulletin applies to the MO HealthNet (MHD) fee-for-service program. Members of MHD managed care plans receive ABA services through the fee-for-service delivery system (straight Medicaid).

[Provider Bulletins](#) are available on the [MO HealthNet Division \(MHD\) website](#). Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletins page.

Providers and other interested parties are urged to [subscribe](#) to the electronic **MO HealthNet News** mailing list to receive automatic notifications of [provider bulletins](#), [provider hot tips](#), provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via email.

The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- MO HealthNet Managed Care

Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping their MO HealthNet card, calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and choosing Option One or using the Participant Eligibility option in [eMOMED](#). Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan.

[MHD Education and Training](#) offers schedules for interactive web based trainings for providers and general and program specific educational resources.

Provider Communications
573-751-2896