

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: May 8, 2024

Subject: [Informational Bulletin 24-13](#): Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Manual Updates

Informational Bulletins that summarize policies and/or procedures are intended for quick reference and are accurate on the date they are issued.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Manual Updates

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana would like to inform you that the [Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) Manual](#) has been updated. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has expanded the definition of Qualified Health Care Professionals (QHCP) and is now allowing “A Pediatrician under a joint work agreement with an interdisciplinary team of providers who are qualified to diagnose developmental disabilities” to complete Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations (CDE).

LDH has also published new guidelines for the number of technicians and Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (CaBA) a supervising licensed professional should work with per day. The number cannot exceed 24 beneficiaries per day. This language should reduce unnecessary initiations of fraud and abuse inquiries due to the large number of hours billed daily by the licensed provider.

In regard to a large volume of claims being billed under the supervising licensed provider, please note that Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 97153 “is used for patients with developmental disabilities or maladaptive behavior that affects their social skills and communication. The treatment is administered by a technician under the direction of a physician or other QHCP, face-to-face with one patient, every 15 minutes,” CPT 2024 p.846.

97153 is defined by the CPT as being performed by a technician under the supervision of the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) billing provider or QHCP. Persons reviewing claims should expect to see multiple claim lines for different beneficiaries on the same day billed under one provider.

LDH has also made changes to the telehealth section. References to new and established patients have been removed. To provide ABA via telehealth, there must be an approved Behavior Treatment Plan that indicates telehealth is being used and the same standard of care can be met via telehealth.

All the above changes have been updated in the ABA Manual, available online at <https://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/providermanuals/manuals/ABA/ABA.pdf>. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will update our system to reflect the changes above within 60 days of this notification. The updates not requiring a systems change must be implemented effective **May 10, 2024**.

For additional details, please review [Informational Bulletin 24-13](#).

Questions regarding this message should be directed to AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#). The Provider Service Department can be reached daily between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm daily.

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