

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi

1. Please identify the insurance company(ies) reflected in this response?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi**

2. How does your insurance company provide the required Autism benefits mandated under Mississippi Law?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** Benefits for psychiatric care, psychological care, therapeutic care and pharmacy care can be found in the applicable Health and Wellness Benefit Plan. There is no differentiation in benefits for these services for autistic individuals. These services are available to autistic individuals, if medically necessary and covered under the Health and Wellness Benefit Plan. For ABA treatments: Focus on and addressing the identified behavioral, psychological, family and medical concerns of the Member; and the goals of intervention are appropriate for the Member's age and impairment status. Social, communication, or language skills or adaptive functioning that have been identified as deficient according to age expected norms form the foundation for the individualized specific treatment plan, including hours of therapy; and identification of measurable goals in objective and measurable terms based on standardized autism-specific testing (such as ABLLS, VBMAPP or comparable test) that addresses the behaviors and deficiencies for which the ABA intervention is to be applied.

3. When it comes to Applied Behavior Analysis services or treatment, does the company have specific procedure codes for billing purposes?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** The codes are: 0359T, 0360T, 0361T, 0362T, 0363T, 0364T, 0365T, 0366T/0367T; 0368T, 0369T, 0370T; 0371T; 0372T; 0373T; 0374T, 96111.

4. Will the company require precertifications or preauthorizations for any treatments or services?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** Prior authorization is required for any inpatient psychiatric care, regardless of whether the care is related to autism. Prior authorization is required for the initial autism assessment. Prior authorization is also required for ABA therapy. The prior authorization for ABA therapy is approved for six (6) months based on an approved treatment plan. A reassessment is required at 6 months to include an updated treatment plan. There are no other precertification or prior authorization requirements for treatments identified in the law.

5. What would be a good contact number that providers can use to contact the company for precertifications or preauthorizations?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** Providers should contact BCBSMS's Provider Services department. The telephone number is 1-800-257-5825. Instructions for submission of required documentation will be provided telephonically and documentation is submitted via facsimile.

6. What should a provider do if the patient has already been diagnosed as being in the autism spectrum and is currently undergoing treatments that are now covered under this law?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** An order for ABA therapy from a Network licensed physician (M.D./D.O.) or Network licensed psychologist and a treatment plan will be required. The provider should contact BCBSMS's Provider Services department at the above telephone number. Detailed requirements for the treatment plan are found in BCBSMS's Medical Policy.
7. Does the company have a specific form that must be used or required elements that must be included when submitting a treatment plan?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** The individualized specific treatment plan is submitted to the Company for approval of ABA treatment. The treatment plan is to be shared with the Member's Primary Care Provider and referring provider, if different from the ordering provider.
8. How should a claim with multiple diagnoses (including autism) and services be coded to ensure payment?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** There is no special coding required for a claim with multiple diagnoses including autism claims. Standard coding guidelines should be followed. Claims can contain multiple diagnoses and this should have no effect on the claim processing process.
9. Where can a provider receive more information about contracting with the insurance company?
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** The provider should email providercontracting@bcbsms.com
10. Please provide a list of Mississippi-licensed ABA therapy providers that are currently part of your network.
 - a. **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi:** If you go to the find a provider page on bcbsms.com, there is a link on the right side of the page just for Autism Network Providers. It is very helpful as it is a separate search that just returns Autism providers. This is the address: <https://www.bcbsms.com/im-a-member/find-a-provider>.
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 - ix. Bailey C King, BCBA
 - x. Sarah A. Kowalczyk, MED

- xi. Cathy G. Meter, LPC
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- xiii. Randi Mura, MA
- xiv. Amber L. Orman, MA
- xv. Brooke N. Owens, MA
- xvi. Keith C. Radley, III, PhD
- xvii. Jessica B. Reed, MA
- xviii. Dannell S. Roberts, PHD
- xix. Christina Sales, MS
- xx. Karen R. Sheridan, PSYD
- xxi. Kelly M Walker, MS
- xxii. Wayne Williams, MS
- xxiii. Shelia M. Williamson, PHD
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