

## Services for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

On July 7, 2014, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance (CIB 07-07-2014) on approaches available under the federal Medicaid program for providing medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). CMS is not singling out Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) or any other specific treatment in its directive to states, but is indicating the services must be comprehensive and include behavioral intervention.

The Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) is proposing coverage for ABA services for categorically needy individuals under age 21, identifying Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) as the coverage authority.

The DHCFP is taking the following steps:

- A series of workshops were held to gain stakeholder input on ABA policy development of medical coverage policy, reimbursement and provider qualifications. The workshop agendas and associated materials can be found on the DHCFP website at: <http://dhcfp.nv.gov/publicnotices.htm>.
- Ongoing information regarding the medical coverage policy development for ABA services can be found on the DHCFP ABA webpage at: <https://dhcfp.nv.gov/ABA.htm>.
- A Public Hearing will be held on the State Plan Amendment (SPA) and medical coverage policy with an anticipated effective date for the first quarter of Calendar Year 2016.
- Policy and Rates SPA's will be submitted for CMS approval. CMS has 90 days for comment.

Currently, Nevada Medicaid covers screenings under EPSDT. See Web Announcement 892 for details.

Future newsletters and web announcements will provide additional information regarding the medical coverage policy development for ABA services, including the prior authorization requirements and billing instructions, as the implementation date approaches. Newsletters and web announcements are posted on the Providers Announcements/Newsletters webpage at [www.medicaid.nv.gov](http://www.medicaid.nv.gov).