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## Outpatient Treatment, Applied Behavior Analysis, South Carolina Service Area

### ***Quality of Care Standards***

*The specified requirements for severity of need and intensity and quality of service must be met to satisfy the criteria for outpatient applied behavior analysis (ABA).*

#### **I. Initial Review– Severity of Need**

*Criteria A, B, C and D must be met to satisfy the criteria for severity of need.*

There must be documentation of:

- A. A DSM-IV diagnosis of Autism, Asperger’s Disorder, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder (not including Rhett’s Disorder) on Axis I or II.
- B. A severe behavior that:
  - Presents a health or safety risk to self or others (such as self-injury, aggression toward others, destruction of property, stereotyped/repetitive behaviors, elopement, severe disruptive behavior); *or*
  - Significantly interferes with home or community activities.
- C. Less-intensive behavior treatment or other therapy has been seriously considered or has not been sufficient to reduce interfering behaviors, to increase pro-social behaviors, or to maintain desired behaviors.
- D. The patient is medically stable and does not require 24-hour medical/nursing monitoring or procedures provided in a hospital level of care.

#### **II. Initial Review– Intensity of Service**

*Criteria A, B, C, D, E and F must be met to satisfy the criteria for intensity and quality of service.*

- A. A reasonable expectation on the part of a qualified treating health care professional who has completed an initial evaluation of the patient, that the individual’s behavior will improve significantly with ABA therapy
- B. The treatment plan is built upon individualized goals. Objectives are measurable and tailored to the patient.
- C. Parent or caregiver training and support is incorporated into the treatment plan.
- D. Interventions emphasize generalization of skills and focus on the development of spontaneous social communication, adaptive skills, and appropriate behaviors.
- E. Interventions are consistent with ABA techniques.
- F. The number of service hours necessary to effectively address the challenging behaviors is listed in the treatment plan.

## Outpatient Applied Behavior Analysis

### III. Continued Stay

*Criteria A or B and C, D, E, F and G must be met to satisfy the criteria for continued stay:*

- A. Intensity of Service Criteria for the Initial Treatment Review must be met.
- B. Appearance of new problems or symptoms that meet Intensity of Service Criteria for the Initial Treatment Review.
- C. Reasonable expectation that the patient will benefit from the continuation of ABA services.
- D. The treatment plan is updated on a monthly basis.
- E. Measurable progress is documented.
- F. Treatment is not making the symptoms worse.
- G. Reasonable expectation, based on the patient's clinical history, that withdrawal of treatment will result in the patient's decompensation or the recurrence of signs or symptoms.

### IV. Exclusion Criteria

ABA treatment will not be authorized for any of the following purposes:

- A. Speech therapy
- B. Occupational therapy
- C. Vocational rehabilitation
- D. Supportive respite care
- E. Recreational therapy
- F. Orientation and mobility.

ABA services provided in the school setting are not the responsibility of Cenpatico

### V. Discharge Criteria

*Criteria A, B, C or D must be met to satisfy the criteria for discharge.*

- A. No meaningful, measurable change has been documented in the patient's behavior(s) for a period of three months
  - For changes to be "meaningful they must be durable over time beyond the end of the actual treatment session, and generalized outside of the treatment setting to the patient's residence and to the larger community within which the patient resides.



- B. Treatment is making the symptoms worse.
- C. The patient has achieved adequate stabilization of the challenging behavior and less-intensive modes of therapy are appropriate.
- D. The patient demonstrates an inability to maintain long-term gains from the proposed plan of treatment.