



ISSUE DATE

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SUBJECT:

Training Requirements for Licensed Behavior Specialists Who Use Behavioral Specialist Consultant-Autism Spectrum Disorder Services to Provide Applied Behavioral Analysis

BY:

Dennis Marion  
Deputy Secretary  
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to providers approved to provide Behavioral Specialist Consultant-Autism Spectrum Disorder (BSC-ASD) services and who use BSC-ASD services to provide Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) in the Fee-for-Service and the HealthChoices behavioral health managed care delivery systems.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers of the training requirements for newly licensed behavior specialists who use BSC-ASD services to provide ABA and who meet the training requirements for the behavior specialist license through trainings approved by the Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) or the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

**BACKGROUND:**

In accordance with Act 62 of 2008, the State Board of Medicine promulgated regulations providing for the licensure of behavior specialists.

In OMHSAS Bulletin 14-02, Enrollment and Payment of Licensed Providers that Provide Behavior Specialist Consultant Services to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, issued May 23, 2014, the Department of Human Services (Department) notified providers that individuals who provide BSC services to children with ASD need to have a behavior specialist license or other professional license whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD to receive payment through the Medical Assistance program for providing BSC-ASD services.

**DISCUSSION:**

In order to be licensed as a behavior specialist, an individual must complete 90 hours of coursework in evidence based practices from an accredited college or university or training approved by the BAS or the BACB. While individuals who plan to use BSC-ASD services to provide ABA are likely to satisfy the training requirement by completing trainings related to ABA, the Department is requiring that individuals who apply for a behavior specialist license

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**  
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105. General Office Number: 717-705-8289.

after May 15, 2016, and who meet the training requirements for the behavior specialist license through trainings approved by the BAS or the BACB complete at least 45 hours of training that address ABA. The BAS has identified trainings that address ABA. These trainings can be accessed through the BAS Virtual Resource Center at <http://bastraining.tiu11.org> .

**RELATED BULLETINS:**

OMHSAS Bulletin 14-02: Enrollment and Payment of Licensed Providers that Provide Behavior Specialist Consultant Services to Child with Autism Spectrum Disorders