



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Human Services

Insurance Department

September 12, 2016

Dear Pennsylvania Families:

If you are the parent or caregiver of a child with autism, you should know how your child's autism-related services may be covered by private health insurance or the Medical Assistance (MA) program under Pennsylvania's Autism Insurance Act (Act 62).

Act 62 requires some private health insurance companies to cover services to diagnose and treat Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for children and young adults up to age 21. Check with your employer's human resources department to see if your insurance policy is covered by Act 62.

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Pennsylvania Insurance Department, and Department of State are working together to fully implement Act 62.

The Departments worked together to identify the billing codes for providers to use to bill private insurance and MA for services to diagnose and treat ASD for children and adolescents. Beginning September 30, 2016, providers will be asking for all insurance cards at the time services are provided so that private insurance companies are billed first and MA is billed only if the private insurance company denies payment. Private insurance companies may approve services and claims that they may have denied in the past.

All of our efforts are designed to ensure that services continue uninterrupted during this time of transition.

In order for MA to pay a claim that your private insurance company denies, your provider must be enrolled in the private insurance company's network and submit a claim for payment to your private insurance company. Your provider will also need to follow the procedures of your private insurance company, such as getting prior approval for the services.

Providers play an important role in helping families understand Act 62. You can also talk to your provider about Act 62. Working together, we can make sure that private insurance companies pay for medically necessary services for children and young adults with ASD, as required by law.

DHS has updated information about Act 62 for families including: fact sheets; answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs); guidance on how to appeal if your insurance company denies a claim; and contact information to reach the right people with any questions you have. This information is available at www.PAAutismInsurance.org.

Questions about this information or Act 62 can be submitted to DHS at RA-PWACT62@pa.gov or the PA Insurance Department – Consumer Services at RA-IN-AUTISM@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

Theodore Dallas
Secretary of Human Services

Teresa Miller
Insurance Commissioner