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SUBJECT:

Enrollment and Payment of Licensed Providers that Provide Behavior Specialist Consultant Services to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

BY:

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

BY:

Vincent Gordon
Deputy Secretary
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify licensed providers (both agencies and individuals) how to enroll in the Medical Assistance (MA) program and be paid for providing behavioral specialist consultant (BSC) services to children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and to notify licensed mental health providers that are approved to provide BSC services how to bill for BSC-ASD services provided by appropriately licensed staff.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to licensed providers who provide BSC-ASD services to children with ASD in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) and behavioral health managed care delivery systems.

BACKGROUND:

Act 62 of 2008 required the State Board of Medicine, in consultation with the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), to promulgate regulations providing for the licensure or certification of behavior specialists and gave behavior specialists one year from the time the regulations were promulgated or three years from the effective date of the relevant section of Act 62 to obtain a license or certification. The Board promulgated regulations with an effective date of May 26, 2012, that set forth the requirements 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 or RA-BHRS@pa.gov.

DISCUSSION:

Shortly after the issuance of the regulations, DPW notified providers that if they provide what is described in MA Bulletin 01-94-01, Outpatient Psychiatric Services for Children Under 21 Years of Age (January 11, 1994) as BSC services to children with ASD, they will need to obtain a behavior specialist license by May 25, 2013, if they do not already have a professional license whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD to receive payment through the MA program. DPW determined that in order to ensure continuity of care for children currently receiving BSC services, the MA program would continue to pay for BSC services for children with ASD provided by unlicensed individuals until May 25, 2014. Beginning May 26, 2014 individuals who provide BSC services to children with ASD must be appropriately licensed for payment to be made through the MA program for services rendered by these individuals.

PROCEDURES:

BSC-ASD Services

To receive payment for providing what is described in Medical Assistance Bulletin 01-94-01 as BSC services to children with ASD (BSC-ASD services) through either the FFS or the behavioral health managed care delivery system the individual providing the services must either be a licensed behavior specialist or have a license whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD and must directly provide the BSC-ASD services.

Licensed behavior specialists and other individuals whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD can either directly enroll in the MA program and be paid for providing BSC-ASD service or be employed by a licensed mental health agency approved to provide BSC services.

Individuals employed by an entity approved to provide BSC services do not need to individually enroll in the MA program to provide BSC-ASD services.

Enrollment of Individuals to Provide BSC-ASD Services

Licensed behavior specialists and other individuals whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD can directly enroll in the MA program and be paid for providing BSC-ASD services. The preamble to the behavior specialist licensure regulations identifies licensed psychologists, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed professional counselors as professionals who are currently providing treatment of ASD pursuant to treatment plans and provides that to the extent that their scope of practice under such a license includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD these professionals will not need to obtain a behavior specialist license. In addition, the licensing board for licensed marriage and family therapists has confirmed that the scope of practice for licensed marriage and family therapists includes the treatment of ASD. As a result, licensed psychologists, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional

counselors, and licensed marriage and family therapists are not required to obtain a behavior specialist license prior to enrolling in the MA program to provide BSC-ASD services that are within the scope of their practice.

Other licensed professionals may also be eligible to enroll in the MA program and provide BSC-ASD services if the board governing their license determines that the scope of practice for their profession includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD. For additional information regarding other license types not addressed in this bulletin or directions on how to submit supporting documentation from a professional licensing board confirming that the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD is within a licensed professional's scope of practice, please contact the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Children's Bureau at RA-BHRS@pa.gov or 717-705-8289.

Providers seeking to enroll to provide BSC-ASD services must complete a Base Provider Enrollment application and any other required documents. The application and instructions for enrollment can be accessed at:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/index.htm>.

As with all Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services (BHRS), in addition to completing the enrollment process, individual providers of BSC-ASD services must also submit a service description to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Children's Bureau for review and approval. The service description must be approved prior to billing the MA program for the provision of BSC-ASD services.

The service description format for individuals interested in providing BSC-ASD services and instructions on how to submit the service description is included in Attachment I.

Individuals with the following licenses will be assigned Provider Type 11, Specialty Type 558:

- Behavior specialist
- Social worker
- Clinical social worker
- Professional counselor
- Marriage and family therapist

Individuals with the following licenses will be assigned Provider Type 19, Specialty Type 558:

- Licensed psychologists

Psychologists that were enrolled and approved to provide BSC services as of January 28, 2014, have had Behavior Specialist, Specialty Type 558 automatically added to their provider profiles in PROMISE and do not need to take any additional steps in order to provide BSC-ASD services.

A provider's enrollment in the MA program does not automatically enroll the provider in the HealthChoices program. Individuals should contact the Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization(s) (BH-MCO) regarding participating in the BH-MCO's network.

Enrollment of Licensed Mental Health Providers

MAB 01-94-01 provides that the following licensed mental health providers are eligible to provide BSC services: Outpatient Clinic (Provider Types 08), Psychiatric Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (Provider Type 09), Physician (Provider Type 31), Family Based Mental Health Services Provider (Provider Type 11), and Partial Hospital Provider (Provider Type 11).

Licensed mental health providers that were enrolled and approved to provide BSC services as of January 28, 2014, have had Behavior Specialist, Specialty Type 558 automatically added to their provider profiles in PROMISE and do not need to take any additional steps to enroll to provide BSC-ASD services.

Licensed mental health providers who are eligible to provide BSC services and are interested in providing BSC-ASD services must complete a Base Provider Enrollment application and any other required documents. The application and instructions for enrollment can be accessed at: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/index.htm>.

In addition to completing the enrollment process, licensed mental health providers must also submit a service description to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Children's Bureau for review and approval. Providers should refer to MAB 01-94-01 for the service description process. Providers should include in their service description the qualifications of the individuals providing BSC-ASD services. The service description must be approved prior to billing the MA program for the provision of BSC-ASD services. After the service description is approved, Behavior Specialist, Specialty Type 558 will be added to the provider's profile in PROMISE.

A provider's enrollment in the MA program does not automatically enroll the provider in the HealthChoices program. Entities should contact the BH-MCO(s) regarding participating in the BH-MCO's network.

Payment for BSC-ASD Services

Beginning May 26, 2014 BSC services provided to children with ASD in the FFS and behavioral health managed care delivery systems must be billed using the following procedure codes:

If BSC-ASD services are provided by a licensed psychologist, use procedure code H0046 (HP) to bill for BSC-ASD services.

If BSC-ASD services are provided by a licensed provider other than a psychologist, use procedure code H0046 (HO) to bill for BSC-ASD services.

MA Fee Schedule Rate

The MA fee schedule rate for BSC-ASD services provided by licensed individuals other than a psychologist is \$12.25 per quarter hour. The MA fee schedule rate for BSC-ASD services provided directly by a licensed psychologist is \$15.75 per quarter hour.

Please note: Consistent with MAB 01-94-01, a psychologist may only bill the higher rate for services the psychologist provides. The higher rate may not be billed for services rendered by someone other than the licensed psychologist.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment I –Service Description Format for individuals seeking to enroll to provide BSC-ASD services.

Questions should be directed as follows:

Questions related to the trainings required for a behavior specialist license can be emailed to RA-BAStrainings@pa.gov

Questions related to the application process for a behavior specialist license can be emailed to ST-MEDICINE@pa.gov

Questions related to the PROMISe provider enrollment process can be emailed to RA-PRovApp@pa.gov or by calling [1-800-537-8862](tel:1-800-537-8862)

Questions regarding the content of this bulletin can be emailed to: RA-BHRS@pa.gov