



Kenneth Bausell, DMA

Research Based - Behavioral Health Treatment (RB-BHT)



Overview

Research Based – Behavioral Health Treatment (RB-BHT) services are researched-based behavioral intervention services that prevent or minimize the adverse effects of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and promote, to the extent practicable, the functioning of a beneficiary.



How people are currently getting services

- **Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment**

- 0-3

- 3-20



Medicaid State Plan

13. c. Preventive Services under Diagnostic, Screening, Treatment, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services

- (c) “Preventive services” means services recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of authorized practice under State law to -
 - (1) Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression;
 - (2) Prolong life; and
 - (3) Promote physical and mental health and efficiency.



State plan versus policy

- **What are we talking about today?**
- **What has more detail?**
- **Why is there less detail in...**



What does that really mean?

- “Behavior and Communication Approaches”
 - Applied Behavioral Analysis
 - Floortime (Developmental, Individual Differences, Relationship-Based Approach)
 - TEACCH
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Speech Therapy, etc.



Who is eligible

- Services that treat or address ASD under this state plan are available only for the following beneficiaries:
 - infants,
 - children and
 - adolescents age 0 to up to 21st birthday.



Eligibility and medical necessity

- Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder utilizing a scientifically validated tool for diagnosis ASD including individuals diagnoses under Section 8A of the State plan.
- Children (0-3) can have a provisional diagnosis of ASD when initiating the service.



What is covered?

- Behavioral / Adaptive / Functional assessment and development of treatment plan
- Delivery of Research Based – Behavioral Health Treatment (RB-BHT) services
- Training of parents/guardians on interventions consistent with the RB-BHT.



What are the limits?

- RBI-BHT services are provided under a **prior authorized treatment plan** that has **measurable goals** over a specific timeline for the specific patient being treated developed by a **Licensed Qualified Autism Service** provider.
- The treatment plan shall be reviewed **no less than once every six months** by a **Licensed Qualified Autism Service** provider and modified whenever appropriate.
- Additional service authorization must be received to continue the service.



What are the limits?

- Services provided without prior authorization shall not be considered for payment or reimbursement except in the case of retroactive Medicaid eligibility.
- Services must be provided and supervised under an approved treatment plan developed by a **Licensed Qualified Autism Service** .
- Coverage is limited to medically necessary services.



The behavioral / functional / adaptive assessment

- Will be based on the individual's strengths and interests

And

- Describe the core deficits of ASD how those deficits impact the individual.



The treatment plan overview

1. Person centered and developmentally appropriate with individualized goals.
2. Describe the individual's behavioral health or developmental skills / challenges that are to be treated;



The treatment plan, cont'd

3. Design an intervention plan that includes
 - A. the service type,
 - B. number of hours of direct service and supervision, and parent/guardian/caregiver participation needed to achieve the long term, intermediate, and short-term goals.
 - C. objectives that are specific, behaviorally defined, measurable, and based upon clinical observation; the frequency at which the beneficiary's progress is evaluated and reported, and identifies the individual providers responsible for delivering the services;



The treatment plan, cont'd

4. Provide intervention plans that utilize research- based practices, with demonstrated clinical efficacy in treating ASD and that are specific to the child's needs and developmental level;
5. Include outcome measurement assessment criteria that will be used to measure achievement of behavior objectives and goals identified in the intervention plan;
6. Update goals and objectives when the treatment goals and objectives are achieved or no longer appropriate.



Termination or transfer

- Termination or transfer to a **different provider** or transferred to **different service/treatment**:
 - The individual has achieved the treatment goals as defined in the treatment plan; or
 - The individual who has a provisional diagnosis for ASD does not meet the diagnostic criteria for ASD (as measured by appropriate scientifically validated tools) or is not appropriate for the particular service type; or



Termination or transfer

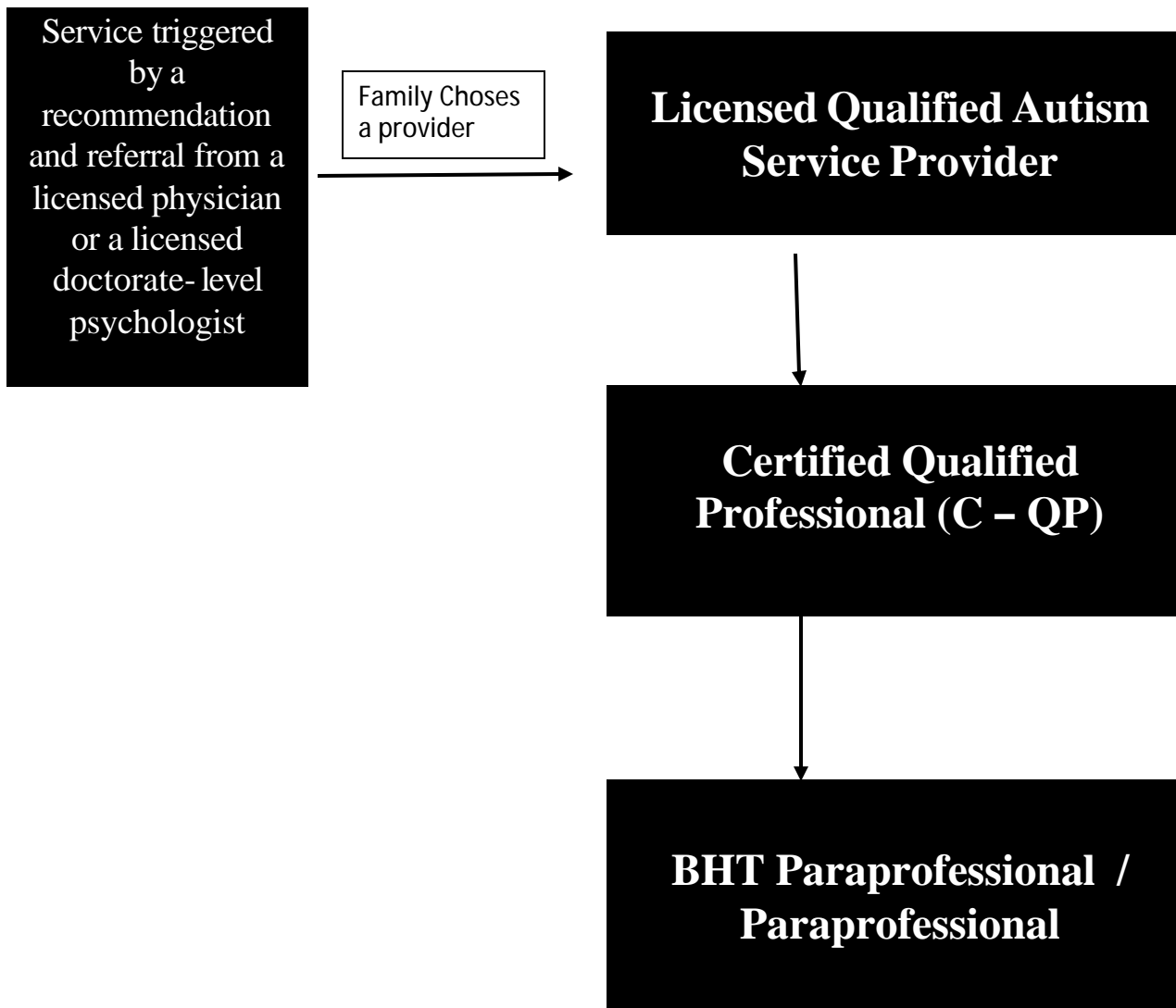
- Termination or transfer to a **different provider** or transferred to **different service/treatment**:
 - The individual does not demonstrate progress towards goals for successive authorization periods; or
 - The family/caregiver is interested in discontinuing services; or
 - The family/caregiver is not participating in important issues in treatment planning and delivery of the service as defined in the treatment plan.





Provider Qualifications





Licensed Qualified Autism Service Provider:

- Person, entity, or group who meets one of the three following credentials:
 - A person licensed as a physician or developmental and developmental/behavioral pediatrician, psychologist or psychological associate, occupational therapist, speech-language pathologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, licensed marriage or family therapist or other licensee allowed to independently practice RB-BHT under the scope of practice permitted in North Carolina, provided the services are within the experience and competence of the state licensee



Licensed Qualified Autism Service Provider:

- What does the Licensed Qualified Autism Service Provider do:
 - Develops the RB-BHT Treatment Plan
 - Supervises RB-BHT services, and
 - Provides RB-BHT services



Certified Qualified Professional (C – QP)

- Provisionally licensed or certified professional who **supervises, provides, or supervises and provides** RB-BHT.
- The Certified Qualified Professional provides RB-BHT pursuant to a treatment plan developed by the Licensed Qualified Autism Service provider.



Paraprofessionals

- Person who provides RB-BHT and is employed by a Licensed Qualified Autism Service provider or the Certified Qualified Professional.
- Completed specific competency-based RB-BHT training for persons with ASD that is equivalent to the minimum hour requirements of the lowest level paraprofessional (e.g. Technician) as specified by the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB).





Next Steps



Next steps

- Open Stakeholder meetings
- Post for public comment
- Submission to CMS
- Stakeholder engagement to develop the accompanying policy





Contact information

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