

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM HEALTH NET

Re: Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Development Disorder or Autism
Effective July 1, 2012

To comply with the State of California's legislation, we are adding coverage (effective on July 1, 2012) for behavioral health treatments for pervasive developmental disorder ("PDD") or autism to your Evidences of Coverage or Certificates of Insurance for the Active and Early Retiree HMO Plans. This change does not impact your Medicare plans (Medicare COB or Seniority Plus).

Behavioral Health Treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or Autism (Effective July 1, 2012)

Prior to July 1, 2012, your coverage already includes medical and behavioral health services for the treatment of pervasive developmental disorder ("PDD") or autism. Effective July 1, 2012, coverage has been expanded to include behavioral health treatments for pervasive developmental disorder ("PDD") or autism as specified herein. This expanded coverage is subject to the Copayment that is required for the Severe Mental Illness outpatient consultation benefit listed for your Group Plan(s).

Behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder ("PDD") or autism includes outpatient professional services and treatment programs, including applied behavior analysis and evidence-based behavior intervention programs, that develop or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of a Member or Covered Person diagnosed with the Severe Mental Illnesses of pervasive developmental disorder or autism.

The treatment must be prescribed by a licensed Physician or a licensed psychologist, and must be provided under a documented treatment plan prescribed, developed and approved by a Qualified Autism Service Provider. The treatment must be administered by the Qualified Autism Service Provider, or by qualified autism service professionals and paraprofessionals who are supervised and employed by the treating Qualified Autism Service Provider.

Prior authorization or Certification is not required for these outpatient services, however, prior notification is required.

Notification must include documentation that a licensed Physician or licensed psychologist has established the diagnosis of pervasive developmental disorder or autism. In addition, the Qualified Autism Service Provider must submit the initial treatment plan to Us.

The treatment plan must have measurable goals over a specific timeline that is developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider for the specific patient being treated, and must be reviewed by the Qualified Autism Service Provider at least once every six months and modified whenever appropriate. The treatment plan must not be used for purposes of providing or for the reimbursement of respite, day care or educational services, or to reimburse a parent for participating in a treatment program.

The Qualified Autism Service Provider must submit updated treatment

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plans to Us for continued behavioral health treatment beyond the initial six months and at ongoing intervals of no more than six-months thereafter. The updated treatment plan must include documented evidence that progress is being made toward the goals set forth in the initial treatment plan.

We may deny coverage for continued treatment if the requirements above are not met or if ongoing efficacy of the treatment is not demonstrated.

Qualified Autism Service Provider means either of the following: (1) A person, entity, or group that is certified by a national entity, such as the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, and who designs, supervises, or provides treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism, provided the services are within the experience and competence of the person, entity, or group that is nationally certified. (2) A person licensed as a physician and surgeon, physical therapist, occupational therapist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist and who designs, supervises, or provides treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism, provided the services are within the experience and competence of the licensee.

Qualified Autism Service Providers employ and supervise qualified autism service professionals and paraprofessionals who provide behavioral health treatment and implement services for pervasive developmental disorder or autism pursuant to the treatment plan developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider.

A qualified autism service professional is a behavioral service provider that has training and experience in providing services for pervasive developmental disorder or autism and is approved as a vendor by a California regional center to provide services as an Associate Behavior Analyst, Behavior Analyst, Behavior Management Assistant, Behavior Management Consultant, or Behavior Management Program as defined in Section 54342 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

A qualified autism service paraprofessional is an unlicensed and uncertified individual who has adequate education, training, and experience as certified by the Qualified Autism Service Provider, and who meets the criteria set forth in the regulations adopted pursuant to Section 4686.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.