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Dear Providers:

Effective January 1, 2018, Georgia's Medicaid program began providing coverage for adaptive behavioral services (ABS) for individuals under age 21 with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

In order to become an ABS qualified health care provider (QHCP), the individual must enroll in the Georgia Medicaid program and hold one or more of the following:

- a current and valid license to practice Medicine in Georgia,
- a current and valid license as a Psychologist, as required under Georgia Code Chapter 39 as amended, or,
- a valid Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Certification as a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst-Doctoral Level (BCBA-D), or Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA).

The following individuals may act as ABS direct care providers under the supervision of the QHCP:

- a Board Certified Assistant Behavioral Analyst (BCaBA)
- a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)

The QHCP and direct care provider must attest to having at least one (1) year of experience in serving youth with ASD. The QHCP may supervise up to six (6) direct care providers at any point in time. Such supervision must be performed in accordance with the supervision guidelines of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board and DCH's Autism Spectrum Disorder Services policy manual.

The QHCP (physicians, psychologists, BCBA-D, and BCBA's) may enroll as an independent provider or as a provider associated with a facility. Both independent and facility associated providers must indicate through attestation the direct care provider for whom they are providing supervision.

Pursuant to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, coverage is provided for an array of assessment and treatment services according to severity and based on medical necessity. Members must have a documented DSM-V diagnosis of ASD from a licensed physician or psychologist or other licensed professional as designated by the Medical Composite Board in order to perform a behavioral assessment and develop a resulting Plan of Care to be eligible for ABS.

The Georgia Department of Public Healthy Babies Can't Wait (BCW) Program provides evaluation, assessment and treatment services to children from birth to three years of age who are determined eligible for the program. BCW will be expanding its scope of services to include the provision of autism related services and will be actively recruiting contract providers who may be interested in providing these services beginning the first quarter of 2018. For more information, please contact [bcw.contracts@dph.ga.gov](mailto:bcw.contracts@dph.ga.gov) or visit the BCW website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/bcw-providers>.

For additional information on how to enroll as an ABS QHCP along with the complete policy manual, visit Georgia Medicaid's autism website at <https://dch.georgia.gov/autism-spectrum-disorder>.

Thank you.