

## **APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS CRITERIA AND PAYMENT POLICY CHANGES**

This notification applies to the following networks: Commercial HMO, POS, and PPO

A listing of all networks can be found on the provider website at <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/communications/letters>

**Effective October 1, 2021**, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will require that only category 1 CPT codes for ABA services may be used in order to streamline Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. The clinical review criteria and payment policy for ABA have been modified to reflect this change.

The current H2017, 0362T, and 0373T codes will be phased out. All ABA services requests must be done using the 97151-97158 codes. CPT code 97156 will now also include coordination of care among service lines, telemedicine, and in-person contact with the patient's care team. The patient's care team could include any or all clinicians involved in the patient's care (e.g., OT, SLP, mental health therapy, school team, etc.). The patient's caregiver/parent must be present for any and all meetings to bill under CPT code 97156. CPT code 97155 includes supervision and program modification completed only when the patient is present. Clinical review criteria have been revised to update the requirement from 1 to 2 or more developmental and behavioral assessments used to measure gaps in functioning, and to provide clarification for other criteria elements. Norm-based assessment will be updated annually, and curriculum-based assessments will be updated every 6 months.

Clinical review criteria can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at [https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/aba\\_autism\\_main.pdf](https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/aba_autism_main.pdf). Please utilize the table located in the criteria to request service hours under the 97151- 97158 codes. The payment policy for Applied Behavior Analysis can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/provider/billing-claims/aba-therapy.pdf>.

Questions: Please contact Elizabeth Silva-Kaplan, M.A., BCBA, LBA, ABA Program Manager, at [Elizabeth.R.Silva-Kaplan@kp.org](mailto:Elizabeth.R.Silva-Kaplan@kp.org).

**Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington**  
**Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc.**

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