



## APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA)

Maryland Medicaid is implementing a new autism benefit for participants under 21 years of age. This program will start on January 1, 2017. ABA therapy is an evidence based practice used to understand behavior and how is it impacted by the environment. ABA therapy can be used to increase language and communication skills. It may be used to improve attention, focus, social skills, and memory. ABA can also be used to help decrease problem behaviors. The program will be managed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) administrative services organization (ASO), Beacon Health Options (Beacon).

There are several steps to access these services:

1. Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation with a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder and a prescription for ABA services
2. ABA Assessment which is where interviews are conducted and the treatment plan is developed
3. ABA Services which will be reviewed at least every 180 days

ABA Treatment may include:

- Social Skills Training
- Parent Training
- Direct Therapy

### WHO CAN PROVIDE THE COMPREHENSIVE DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION

A comprehensive diagnostic evaluation includes an interview, testing, and observation. This type of evaluation is done by one of the following professionals who has training and experience in the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder:

1. Developmental Pediatrician
2. Pediatrician
3. Pediatric Neurologist
4. Child Psychiatrist
5. Clinical Psychologist
6. Neuropsychologist
7. Nurse Practitioner

### HOW DO I FIND A PROVIDER OF ABA SERVICES?

To receive a referral for ABA services, you may contact Beacon Health Options Maryland at the following toll-free numbers:

Call: 800-888-1965 / TTY: 866-835-2755  
Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday  
8:00am - 6:00pm EST