



## **PROVIDER ALERT**

### **THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES**

**JUNE 24, 2016**

**Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)** offer a treatment intervention available to eligible children and adolescents under 21 years old who are returning from or in jeopardy of being placed in a more restrictive placement. By providing behavioral treatment services in the natural home setting environment, Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) help participants learn new adaptive behaviors and skills to replace dysfunctional or dangerous ones. TBS services are intended to be an intensive intervention with the goal of teaching the natural caregivers specific skills, and to support and retain full responsibility for the behavioral management of the youth by the natural caregivers. Conditions which might merit extending authorization of TBS services include, but are not limited to, the need for ongoing training of the caregiver when there is evidence of improvement in targeted behaviors, the emergence of new dangerous symptoms which are amenable to behavioral interventions and require a modification of behavioral plan, or a change in the primary caretaker to a previously untrained individual.

Parents/legal guardians are expected to be active participants in TBS sessions, learning and practicing interventions with assistance from the TBS staff. TBS staff are not caretakers. Continued authorization will require evidence and documentation that skills are being transferred to caregivers. TBS services will continue to be approved when there is evidence of on-going improvement in the caregiver's ability to implement the behavioral interventions, but the full goals have not yet been met. Continued approval of services will depend on TBS providers changing behavioral plans and interventions or approval will be denied because of a lack of progress. To support a resiliency model of returning to a less



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intensive level of care, and in order to assist with the monitoring and appropriate usage of these services, the following discharge criteria will be utilized:

- The participant turns 21 years old;
- The current behaviors no longer put the participant at risk of out-of-home placement;
- The participant has reached the maximum benefit from TBS services as evidenced by the current care being more habilitative (rather than rehabilitative), custodial, or more focused on activities of daily living;
- The parent, guardian, or the individual who customarily provides care is no longer a pivotal part of the behavioral plan, or when the caregiver fails to participate as outlined in the behavioral plan;
- The parent, guardian, or the individual who customarily provides care has learned to implement the behavioral plan and can continue to independently do so with consultation as needed from an outpatient therapist; or
- TBS has proven inadequate in addressing the participant's needs and therefore more intensive or alternate services are clinically needed.

These criteria will not change the process of seeking initial TBS services, nor the continuation of ongoing medically necessary services.

Please refer to the Beacon Health Options Provider Manual ([http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/manual/CH07\\_15-Therapeutic-Behavioral-Services-Child\\_Adolescent.pdf](http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/manual/CH07_15-Therapeutic-Behavioral-Services-Child_Adolescent.pdf)) for further details on TBS Medical Necessity Criteria.



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### **TBS Services and Providers**

Medicaid reimburses three types of TBS services provided by Early, Periodic Screening and Diagnosis, Treatment (EPSDT) TBS provider (provider type 51). Providers must be enrolled with Medicaid and registered with Beacon Health Options. These services are:

1. Initial Assessment & Development of Behavioral Plan for TBS (procedure code 96150);
2. Reassessment and Development of New Behavior Plan for TBS (procedure code 96151): and
3. TBS Intervention (procedure code 96152).

### **Rates and Units of Service**

All Therapeutic Behavioral Services are reimbursed using 15-minute increments, at the rates specified on the Public Behavioral Health System fee schedule available here:

[http://maryland.valueoptions.com/provider/claims\\_finance/PMHS-Reimbursement-Schedule.pdf](http://maryland.valueoptions.com/provider/claims_finance/PMHS-Reimbursement-Schedule.pdf)