
Applied Behavior Analysis Services

4.229 Applied Behavior Analysis Services4.229.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this rule, the term:

- (a) **“Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)”** means the design, implementation, and evaluation of the instructional and environmental modifications by a behavior analyst to provide socially significant improvements in human behavior.
- (b) **“Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)”** means an independent practitioner who provides ABA services, holds a master’s degree, and is certified through the National Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). BCBAs also supervise the work of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians.
- (c) **“Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)”** means an ABA provider who holds a minimum of a bachelor’s degree, is certified through the BACB, and is directly supervised by a BCBA. BCaBAs may supervise the work of Behavior Technicians.
- (d) **“Behavior Technician (BT), including Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)”** means an ABA provider who holds a bachelor’s degree, or is pursuing a bachelor’s degree, and practices under close, ongoing supervision of a BCBA or BCaBA supervisor. Relevant experience may be exchanged for a degree.

4.229.2 Covered Services

Medically necessary ABA services include:

- (a) Functional Assessment and Analysis
- (b) Treatment plan development
- (c) Direct treatment
- (d) Program supervision
- (e) Parent/caregiver training
- (f) Team conferences

4.229.3 Eligibility for Care

For a beneficiary to receive ABA services, they must:

- (a) Be actively enrolled in Medicaid at the time of the service,
- (b) Be under the age of 21,
- (c) Have a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (latest edition) diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, early childhood developmental disorder, or any successor diagnosis,
- (d) Have a prescription for ABA from a:
 - (1) Board certified or board eligible psychiatrist,
 - (2) Doctorate-level licensed psychologist,

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- (3) Board certified or board eligible pediatrician,
 - (4) Board certified or board eligible neurologist, or
 - (5) Developmental-behavioral or neurodevelopmental disabilities pediatrician, and
- (e) Be medically stable and not require 24-hour medical or nursing monitoring or in need of procedures provided in a hospital level of care on an ongoing basis.

4.229.4 Qualified Providers

BCBAs and BCaBAs providing ABA services must be licensed in Vermont, working within the scope of their practice, and enrolled in Vermont Medicaid.

4.229.5 Prior Authorization Requirements

The Vermont Medicaid Fee Schedule contains a detailed list of covered services and indicates which services require prior authorization. The Fee Schedule can be found on the Department of Vermont Health Access website.

4.229.6 Non-Covered Services

Vermont Medicaid will not authorize ABA services for any of the following:

- (a) School-based ABA services authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and reimbursed by the Agency of Education,
- (b) Respite care,
- (c) Orientation and mobility,
- (d) Psychiatric hospitalization, or
- (e) Medicaid beneficiaries in long term out-of-home placement/care outside a community setting.