

Accessing Medicaid Autism Related Services – Frequently Asked Questions from Parents and Families

1. What are autism related services?

Autism related services are available to help develop, maintain or restore the functioning of a person with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). A service called Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is available to assist with behavioral issues. In addition, there are other types of services such as speech, occupational and physical therapy that may also help a person with ASD.

2. Who is eligible for Medicaid autism related services?

Medicaid ASD related services may be available to a person who:

- Is under 21 years old; and
- Is currently on Medicaid and qualifies for Child Health Evaluation and Care (CHEC); and
- Has a documented ASD diagnosis. The diagnosis must be rendered by a doctor, psychologist or other licensed clinician using a specified diagnostic evaluation tool. *(See Question 4 for more information about required diagnostic tools).*

3. If my child is not currently on Medicaid, how do I apply?

If your child is not currently on Medicaid, you will need to fill out an application to see if your child is eligible for Medicaid coverage. Apply for Utah Medicaid at: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/apply-medicaid> or <http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/services/medicaid/index.html>

Be aware that it may take 4-6 weeks to process your application. If there are parts of the application that are incomplete, the process will take longer. The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) is responsible for processing your application and determining your eligibility. Within 2-3 business days of submitting an application, you may call DWS at 1-866-435-7414 to complete your interview and/or to find out what verifications are needed to determine your eligibility. You may use MyCase (<https://jobs.utah.gov/mycase/>) for more information or to view the status of your case.

4. Once my child is on Medicaid, what do I do next?

Once your child has Medicaid coverage, the next step is to confirm that your child has a documented ASD diagnosis. The diagnosis must be made by a physician, psychologist or other licensed clinician. To ensure consistency, for diagnoses rendered after July 1, 2015, the clinician is required to use one of the following diagnostic tools:

- Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R)
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2)
- Pre-linguistic Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (PL-ADOS)

For ASD diagnosis rendered prior to July 1 2015, where one of the above diagnostic tools was not used, the provider must complete the ASD Diagnostic Confirmation Sheet.

5. Where should I go to get an ASD diagnosis and how will the provider be paid for rendering the diagnosis?

Where you go to get a diagnosis for your child will depend on individual circumstances. One good place to start is with your child's pediatrician or primary care doctor. Many pediatricians and primary care doctors have the expertise to assess and diagnose a child using one of the required diagnostic tools. If your child's physician does not perform the required assessments, he or she may refer you to another type of clinician, such as a psychologist or other clinician that works in the field of diagnosing ASD.

In order to receive payment for completing the assessment and rendering a diagnosis, a provider must be enrolled with Medicaid and will bill Medicaid directly, on a "fee-for-service" basis.

If your child is enrolled in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO), i.e.: Health Choice Utah, Healthy U, Molina Healthcare or SelectHealth Community Care, you have the option of selecting any willing provider on your child's panel of ACO providers. In this case, the provider must also be enrolled directly with Medicaid and willing to bill Medicaid directly for this service. You also have the option to find a provider that is not on your child's panel of ACO providers, but who is enrolled with Medicaid and is willing to bill Medicaid directly. Following is contact information for Medicaid ACOs: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/accountable-care-organizations>. You may also wish to contact a Health Program Representative (HPR) for assistance in finding a provider at 1-866-608-9422.

If your child is not enrolled in an ACO, you will need to contact an enrolled Medicaid provider who is willing to bill Medicaid directly for conducting the diagnostic assessment. If you need assistance finding a Medicaid provider, you can contact an HPR for assistance at 1-866-608-9422.

Another option to find a diagnosing provider is to contact the Local Mental Health Authority in your area. You have the option to select a willing provider on your child's panel of Local Mental Health Authority providers. In this case, the provider must be enrolled with Medicaid and willing to bill Medicaid directly. Following is contact information for Local Mental Health Authorities: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/managed-care>.

6. After I have the required ASD diagnosis, what do I do next?

For services to address behavioral issues, the next step is to choose an ABA services provider. A list of all Medicaid enrolled ABA service providers may be found at: <http://health.utah.gov/ltc/asd/>. You are responsible for contacting the provider and determining if the provider is accepting new clients. If the provider accepts your child as a client, the provider will work with you to obtain the required documents to submit a request for a service prior authorization to the Medicaid agency. Required information will include documentation to demonstrate the ASD diagnosis, including a copy of the completed diagnostic tool and a written prescription for ABA services from the treating clinician.

If your child is enrolled in an ACO, requests for physical, occupational or speech therapy should be submitted by the provider to the ACO. If your child is not enrolled in an ACO, the requests for these services should be submitted to the Medicaid prior authorization unit.

For additional questions on ASD related services visit the Medicaid website at: <http://health.utah.gov/ltc/asd/>