

# 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, and 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 any enrolled member with a diagnosis of ASD. 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 I am not currently enrolled in Medicaid, how do I apply?

If an individual is not currently enrolled in Medicaid, the individual will need to fill out an application to see if they are 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 an 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 applications and determining 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 eligibility. You may use MyCase (<https://jobs.utah.gov/mycase/>) for more information or to view the status of your case.

### 4. Once an individual is enrolled in Medicaid, what's next?

Once an applicant has been approved for Medicaid coverage, the next step is to confirm that the member has a documented ASD diagnosis. The diagnosis must be made by a physician, psychologist or other licensed clinician.

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

Where the member receives a diagnosis will depend on individual circumstances. One good place to start is with a pediatrician or primary care practitioner. Many pediatricians and primary care practitioners have the expertise to assess and diagnose an individual. If a clinician 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.

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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.

If the member is enrolled in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO), i.e., Health Choice Utah, Healthy U, Molina Healthcare, or SelectHealth Community Care, the member has the option of selecting any willing provider on the 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. The member also has the option to find a provider that is not on the panel of ACO providers, but who is enrolled with Medicaid and is willing to bill Medicaid directly. The following link includes 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 the member is not enrolled in an ACO, they 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 locate 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 panel of Local Mental Health Authority providers. In this case, the provider must be enrolled with Medicaid and willing to bill Medicaid directly. Contact information for Local Mental Health Authorities can be found at: <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/>. The member is responsible for contacting the provider and determining if the provider is accepting new clients. If the provider accepts the member as a client, the provider will work with the member 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 a qualified clinician.

If the member is enrolled in an ACO, requests for physical, occupational, or speech therapy should be submitted by the provider to the ACO. If the member 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/>