



## **NOTICE**

### Coverage for members with autism

August 29, 2012

We're enhancing your Blue Care Network coverage. Starting Oct. 15, 2012, we'll expand our coverage of diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. The new benefits are for members through age 18. Coverage may continue as the member ages when shown to be medically necessary. For members who receive a diagnosis of any autism spectrum disorder from BCN's approved evaluation centers, treatment can include applied behavior analysis if provided by a BCN-approved and board-certified ABA specialist.

By Oct. 15, we'll list BCN-approved autism evaluation centers and board-certified behavior analysts at **MiBCN.com/find**. We'll update the lists continuously as we work to expand our provider network to help ensure access to care for our Michigan members with autism spectrum disorders. As usual for BCN specialty care, you'll need our approval of services in advance and you'll need to get services from BCN-approved providers. For behavioral health services, call the number on the back of your ID card.

BCN's benefits address a new Michigan law that mandates treatment of autism spectrum disorders. It specifically mandates applied behavior analysis. For a benefit summary, see the fact sheet on Page 2.

The updated official description of your benefits, or *Certificate of Coverage* and riders, will be online on Oct. 15. Review them at **MiBCN.com** by logging into Member Secured Services. If you don't have Internet access, request a paper copy Oct. 15 or after by calling the customer service number on the back of your ID card or 1-800-257-9980 (TTY). The hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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# Autism Benefit Fact Sheet

## Coverage

Starting on Oct. 15, 2012, Blue Care Network is expanding its autism-related coverage. We'll cover applied behavior analysis, for example, for members through age 18 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders at approved centers. With medical diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder, we'll cover certain treatments from an approved provider until the member turns 19. As a member ages, treatment may continue when shown to be medically necessary.

## State of Michigan mandate

BCN's coverage complies with legislation signed into state law in April 2012. For details, visit [mi.gov/autism](http://mi.gov/autism).

## Conditions

The mandate specifies that autism spectrum disorders include autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder and pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified.

## Benefits

BCN coverage for members with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis includes:

- Applied behavior analysis, a specialized treatment for autism spectrum disorders
- Physical, speech and occupational therapy as part of autism spectrum disorder treatment
- Nutritional counseling as part of autism spectrum disorder treatment
- Other mental health benefits to diagnose and treat autism spectrum disorders
- Other medical services used to diagnose and treat autism spectrum disorders

## Approval of services

BCN requires providers to get approval in advance for these services. In addition, all services by board-certified behavior analysts and all applied behavior analysis require the recommendation of a BCN-approved autism evaluation center in advance of services.

## Where to get services

With authorization, most services for members diagnosed with autism can be rendered by any BCN-approved provider. However, for applied behavior analysis, a member must first have the diagnosis confirmed by a BCN-approved autism evaluation center. Centers will be listed at [MiBCN.com/find](http://MiBCN.com/find) by Oct. 15. In advance of evaluating a member, the center must have BCN approval.

For applied behavior analysis recommended by a BCN-approved autism evaluation center, the member must seek services from a BCN-approved board-certified behavior analyst. Board-certified behavior analysts will be included in BCN's online provider search at [MiBCN.com/find](http://MiBCN.com/find) by Oct. 15. In advance of providing covered services, the analyst must have BCN approval.

## Annual dollar limits

Standard BCN mental health services and diagnostic services are not subject to dollar and age limits. BCN is applying the mandate's highest annual dollar limits (\$50,000) across all age groups. BCN is not restricting the dollar limits based on age tiers, as defined in the law. For medical necessity and advance approval, BCN may cover additional services beyond the \$50,000 annual dollar limit.

## Member's share of costs

The member's medical outpatient therapy benefit specifies the deductible, copayment or coinsurance that applies to physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy. When applicable, the primary care physician copay or coinsurance and deductible apply to other outpatient services.

*The information in this document is based on Michigan Blues' review of the applicable legislation and is not intended to impart legal advice. Interpretations of this legislation may vary, and efforts will be made to present and update accurate information. This overview is intended as an educational tool only and does not replace a more rigorous review of the law's applicability to individual circumstances and attendant legal counsel and should not be relied upon as legal or compliance advice.*