



To: Primary Care Physicians
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: August 2, 2018
Subject: Coverage Criteria for Behavioral Health Treatment

Effective **July 1, 2018**, Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) as a covered benefit solely for Members diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder has been expanded to include IEHP Members who meet **all** the following criterion:

- Under 21 years of age;
- Have a recommendation from a licensed physician and surgeon or a licensed psychologist that evidence-based BHT services are medically necessary;
- Be medically stable; and
- Not be in need of 24-hour medical/nursing monitoring or procedures provided in a hospital or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Behavioral Health Treatment is the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior. BHT includes direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relations between the environment and behavior.

BHT services teach skills through the use of behavioral observation and reinforcement, or through prompting to teach each step of targeted behavior. BHT services are based on reliable evidence and are not experimental. Treatment may or may not include Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA).

BHT is medically necessary after the Provider has completed a comprehensive developmental surveillance and screening and has recommended that BHT services are clinically warranted to treat persistent, developmentally inappropriate behavior, and/or diagnoses that may be able to be corrected or ameliorated with BHT services. Aberrant behaviors include but are not limited to: self-injury and aggression, and deficits in language skills, daily living skills, and social skills.

Primary Care Physicians will continue to referral a Member directly to IEHP Behavioral Health for any BHT services and/or diagnostic needs, regardless of IPA.

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at the following address: <https://ww3.iehp.org/en/providers/correspondence/>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054 or email the IEHP Behavioral Health Team at BehavioralHealth@iehp.org.