

## Changes in Prior Authorization Requirements for IBHS-ABA

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Effective April 28, 2023, CBH is increasing the supporting documentation requirements for prior authorization of IBHS-ABA.

CBH is aligning our review practices with the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP) version 2.0 guidelines surrounding focused and comprehensive approaches to ABA treatment (CASP, 2020). We anticipate that many children with autism spectrum disorder, especially those with Level 2/3 support needs in social/communication and restricted, repetitive behaviors will require comprehensive support and the simultaneous targeting of multiple treatment goals across social, communicative, adaptive, and behavioral domains. There should also be explicit goals for caregiver training, including parents and other caregivers, such as teachers. As such, all requests for ABA services up to 160 hours per month (hpm) of ABA-BHT are considered within the established medical necessity guidelines for ABA and consistent with the published literature.

Effective April 28, 2023, all requests of ABA-BHT up to 160 hpm require the following to be submitted to CBH:

- IBHS Written Order (complete, valid, with evidence of comprehensive goals across multiple skill acquisition and/or behavior reduction targets).
- Functional Behavior Assessment (comprehensive, cross-setting, and aligned with CBH FBA Quality Audit Tool)

CBH recognizes that there will be youth who meet medical necessity for BHT services in excess of 160 hpm and is establishing additional documentation requirements to support medical necessity determination.

Effective April 28, 2023, requests of ABA-BHT of 161 or more hours per month require the following to be submitted to CBH:

- IBHS Written Order (complete, valid, with evidence of comprehensive goals across multiple skill acquisition and/or behavior reduction targets).
- Functional Behavior Assessment (comprehensive, cross-setting, and aligned with CBH FBA Quality Audit Tool)

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- IBHS Assessment with all domains per regulations
- Full Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP), informed by the assessment

Failure to submit all required elements listed above will result in CBH issuing an Insufficient determination. The provider and/or family would then have 14 days to submit the required missing element(s), or the request for authorization will be denied.

For questions about this bulletin, please contact Dr Jessica Woods, Psychologist Coordinator of IBHS and Neurodevelopmental Services at [jessica.woods@phila.gov](mailto:jessica.woods@phila.gov)