Does my child have patient protections?

Yes!

BUCKEYE ALLIANCE FOR BEHAVIOR HEALTH

ASD/DD/ID FAMILIES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN ACCESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO DRIVE CHANGES IN INSURANCE COVERAGE.

PRESENTER MARLA ROOT

Agenda

Introduction

ABA Service Authorization

The Medical Necessity Processes

Medicaid’s Federal Mandate - EPSDT

Federal Parity Law – MHPAEA (Ma-Pe-Aw)

What does all this mean for my child?

Introduction to Access

Employer-based and Medicaid coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for the treatment of ASD is available in Ohio. However, Medicaid access presents some challenges.

Children on fee-for-service or traditional Medicaid may find it difficult to find providers who can serve them. Some find access to ABA through a CPST or TBS service within a community behavioral health center.

Those with employer-based ABA coverage may face inadequate provider networks.

Therapy Service Authorization

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBACOBA)



Comprehensive ABA or Focused ABA Intereventions

Behavior Technician or Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)

AMA AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Adaptive Behavior Services: Assessment and Treatment

The Medical Necessity Processes

Medically necessary generally refers to:

- treatments that lessen or manage symptoms (habilitative),
- improve functioning,
- and/or prevent regression or deterioration.

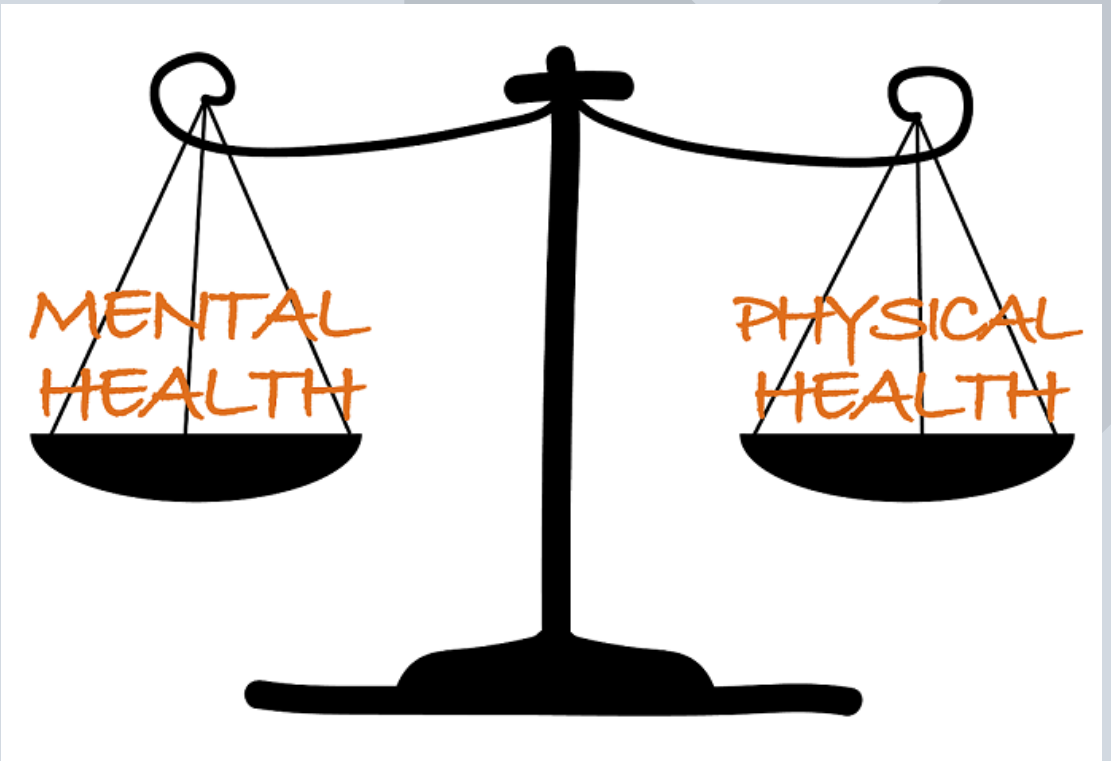
Elements of medical necessity include:

- evidenced-based interventions or generally medically accepted treatment,
- goals to remediate deficits, signs, and symptoms of the condition being treated,
- and treatment plans that specify frequency, intensity, and duration of treatment that is considered to be clinically appropriate.

Persons of all ages enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care Plan or Employer-Based Insurance have these protections.

Outpatient treatment limitations apply at parity (same) for patients on the medical and mental health sides.

- Age
- Hours or Visit limits (Speech goals for ASD)
- Intensity or Fail First
- Inadequate Provider Network.
- Number One Exclusion: ABA



Federal Parity Law – MHPAEA (Ma-Pe-Aw)

PROTECTS PATIENT ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES



Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, & Treatment

Protects patients from birth to age 21

Children's health problems should be addressed before they become advanced, and treatment is more difficult and costly.

EPSDT's goal is to assure that individual children get the health care they need when they need it – the right care to the right child at the right time in the right setting.

Medicaid's Federal Mandate - EPSDT

What does this mean for my child?

Access Challenge Impact

- Medicaid is not offering a full provider network yet for ABA therapy.
- Prescribed or recommended ABA therapy needs to begin in a reasonable amount of time.
- ABA therapy has accepted standards of care called The Practice Guidelines by the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP).
- Age and severity should not be a defining reason for a denial of ABA.

Remember……

Children and teens with autism have Parity/MHPAEA (MCO) & EPSDT Patient Protections.

Adults over 21 years of age have Parity/MHPAEA Patient Protections if enrolled in a managed care plan (MCO).

Summary

Children in commercial or employer-based insurance have many service providers available to meet the service demand for ABA therapy.

Children and adolescents have patient protection through Mental Health Parity Laws (MHPAEA) and Medicaid's EPSDT mandate.

Parents can appeal with the insurer or file a complaint with the insurer's regulator if they cannot access ABA therapy.

Adults with ASD have protections through Mental Health Parity Laws.

Thank you!

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More informational videos and resources can be found ww.BuckeyeBH.org.

For providers, reach out to the Ohio Autism Insurance Coalition at www.asdohio.com