Aetna Better Health®
of Oklahoma

Aetna Better Health® of Oklahoma
777 NW 63rd Street, Suite 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Aetna Better Health® of Oklahoma

Re: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) assessment and treatment services update – effective October 1, 2026

Dear Provider Partner,

Aetna Better Health is updating standard parameters for ABA assessment, reassessment, and treatment services.

These changes apply to:

- Initial assessments (CPT 97151)
- Reassessments (CPT 97151 with modifier TS)
- Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol (CPT 97153)

These updates are designed to support consistent service delivery, appropriate utilization, and alignment between requested services and documented medical necessity.

What's changing?

Initial ABA assessment: CPT 97151

- Standard parameter - 24 units (6 hours) per assessment

ABA reassessment: CPT 97151 with modifier TS

- Standard parameter - 16 units (4 hours) every 6 months

Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol: CPT 97153

- Standard parameter - up to 6 hours per day or 30 hours per week

What this means for providers

ABA services will continue to be reviewed and authorized based on medical necessity. These standard parameters are intended to:

- Improve consistency between initial assessments and reassessments

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- Support appropriate utilization across providers
- Align requested units with clinical need

Requests above standard parameters

Requests that exceed the standard parameters may be submitted when clinically appropriate. Documentation should clearly support medical necessity and explain why additional units are needed for a complex or highly individualized case.

Documentation should include:

- Clinical rationale for additional units
- Impact on functioning and treatment complexity
- Specific examples, such as behavioral data, incidents, or transitions
- How assessment findings will inform treatment planning

Billing and authorization reminders

Continue submitting prior authorization requests for ABA services.

Initial assessments

- Bill using CPT 97151

Reassessments

- Bill using CPT 97151 with modifier TS
- Reassessments should generally occur every 6 months

Questions?

Contact the Provider Engagement team at: **1-844-365-4385** or by email at **ABHOKProviderEngagement@Aetna.com**

Aetna Better Health highlights

Colorectal cancer screening

Members have access to colorectal screening options at no cost and receive a **$25 reward** once completed. A reminder from a trusted provider can increase screening rates and close gaps in care for Oklahomans.

Breast cancer screening

Members receive a **$25 reward** for completing a breast cancer screening. Your recommendation matters to members and can help save lives with early detection.

Cervical cancer screening

This extra benefit gives members ages 21-64 years old a **$25 reward** for completing their cervical cancer screening.

Encourage members to call the number on their ID card or explore support in the Aetna Better Health app.