

## Applied behavior analysis codes changing on January 1

**Date issued:** Oct 23, 2018

**Effective date:** Jan 1, 2019

**To:** The licensed applied behavioral analysts, clinical psychologists, early intervention providers, and community mental health centers caring for our members

**From:** Stephan Katinas, Vice President, Healthcare Contracting and Management

The American Medical Association recently confirmed that there will be changes to the codes you use to bill for applied behavior analysis (ABA) services. We will adopt the new CPT codes for applied behavior analysis services on or after January 1, 2019.

If you have a current authorization for ABA services, you don't need to obtain a new authorization for these codes. When reauthorization is required, please request reauthorization using the new CPT codes.

### Key documents will be updated

We are currently preparing to update the *Applied Behavioral Analysis Prior Authorization Form*, our autism payment policy, and your fee schedule. We expect to have all appropriate documents available in early December, and will notify you when updates are complete. Please review these documents **prior** to billing for services effective January 1, 2019. This will reduce your claim denials and appeals.

### New process for initial assessments

We are changing our process to make it easier for you to request initial behavioral assessments. You will still need to call our case creation area at 800-524-4010 option 4 but will not have to wait for a call back to start the process. We will revise the prior authorization form to include information required for the initial assessment.

### Resources

- Applied behavioral analysis prior authorization request form (will be updated in December 2018)
- Autism payment policy (will be updated in December 2018)
- Your fee schedule (will be updated in December 2018)

### Questions?

If you have any questions, please call Network Management and Credentialing Services at **1-800-316-BLUE (2583)**. As always, thank you for the care you provide to our members.

