



January 29, 2019

Dear ABA Provider:

As you know, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana has transitioned to the new 2019 Adaptive Behavior Treatment CPT® codes in accordance with American Medical Association (AMA) guidelines.

Since making this transition, we have reviewed our Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) billing guidelines and received feedback from the ABA provider community. As a result, we are making the following change to our ABA billing guidelines.

Effective for claims with a date of service on and after February 1, 2019: concurrent billing will be allowed as follows when both services are administered simultaneously. Medical record documentation should clearly indicate that both services were administered simultaneously:

- for adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification (97155) and adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician (97153). The 97153 service must be face-to-face with the member and the 97155 service must be direction of the technician for protocol modification.
- for treatment with protocol modification (97155) and group adaptive treatment (97154).

This billing guideline change has no effect on current allowable charges and does not impact our current authorization requirements.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana will continue to monitor any guidance from the AMA and we reserve the right to make further changes to our ABA billing guidelines based on that guidance.

Request ABA Authorizations Online

Did you know you can request and view ABA authorizations online through iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue)? The New Directions WebPass Portal is available under the "Authorizations" menu option, then click on "Behavioral Health Authorizations."

Thank you for your continued participation in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield ABA provider network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara Mayo".

Tamara Mayo, CPA, MHCDS
VP, Provider Reimbursement & Payment Innovation
Network Administration

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