

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

SPA 25-Y: Updates to the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Services

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Public comment information is at the bottom of this document.

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after July 1, 2025, SPA 25-Y will amend Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B of the Medicaid State Plan in order to revise the education and training requirement for the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) technician to increase the number of qualified autism provider, avoiding an access issue for HUSKY Health members needing to obtain these services. Additionally, this SPA will amend Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan with the revision of the autism spectrum disorder fee schedule by adding procedure codes used for parent training and case management services to ensure proper coding for billing.

Fee schedules are published at this link: <http://www.ctdssmap.com> (select “Provider,” then “Provider Fee Schedule Download,” accept the terms and conditions, and select the applicable fee schedule).

Fiscal Impact

Based on the information that is available at this time, DSS anticipates that this proposed change is estimated to have no fiscal impact in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 and SFY 2027.

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

The proposed SPA is posted on the DSS website at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-State-Plan-Amendments>. The proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS resource center, at the Town of Vernon Social Services Department, or upon request from DSS (see below).

To request a copy of the SPA from DSS or to send comments about the SPA, please email: Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105. Please reference **SPA 25-Y: Updates to the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Services**.

Anyone may send DSS written comments about this SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than **June 16, 2025**.

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To Attachment 3.1-A**

State: CONNECTICUT
AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
CATEGORICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13(c). Preventive Services

Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

develop the behavioral plan of care include, but are not limited to, if the provider changed employers, moved to another geographic area, needed to collaborate with another provider with different expertise, or other situations.

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1. Development and Updates to the Program Book

a. Description: At the discretion of the Performing Provider, the Performing Provider may develop and, as appropriate, perform ongoing updates to a Program Book, which is a tool for use by providers, beneficiaries, and caregivers to ensure that the services and goals in the behavioral plan of care remain appropriate and properly implemented. The Program Book is a document that: (i) includes details of specific interventions and related information regarding ASD treatment services for an individual that are designed to implement the short short-term goals and objectives outlined in the behavioral plan of care; (ii) is individually tailored to each individual in accordance with the behavioral plan of care; and (iii) is updated on an ongoing basis as appropriate for each individual. Prior authorization is required for the development of and updates to a Program Book.

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b. Qualified Providers: Same qualifications as for Qualified Providers of behavior assessments, as described above.

2. ASD Treatment Services

a. Description: ASD treatment services include a variety of behavioral interventions, which have been identified as evidence-based by nationally recognized research reviews, identified as evidence-based by other nationally recognized substantial scientific and clinical evidence, and/or any other intervention supported by credible scientific or clinical evidence, as appropriate to each individual. These services are designed to be delivered primarily in the home and in other community ~~settings~~settings but may be delivered in a licensed behavioral health clinic, hospital outpatient program, federally qualified health center, if within their scope of work and other licensed healthcare facilities or clinics. ASD treatment services are primarily provided separately to each individual. In addition to individual ASD treatment services, ASD treatment services for groups of individuals (“group ASD treatment services”) may be

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State: CONNECTICUT
AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
CATEGORICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13(c). Preventive Services

Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

of the caregiver for the benefit of the individual and enables the caregiver to be able to reinforce the services for the individual in a clinically effective manner.

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c. Presence / Availability of Caregiver: In order to ensure that the services are covered under the preventive services benefit category and do not include services not coverable under section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act, including, but not limited to, child care or respite services, as well as to ensure the clinical success of the services, a caregiver shall be present or available at all times in or around the home when services are being provided in the home in order to care for members under age eighteen, even when the caregiver is not directly participating in the services. For services provided outside of the home, a caregiver shall be present or available as necessary based on the ASD treatment services provider's clinical judgment.

d. Qualified Providers. Any of the following providers are qualified to perform ASD treatment services:

i. Performing Providers, Clinics, FQHCs and Outpatient Hospitals: Same qualifications as Qualified Providers of behavior assessments, as described above. Clinics, FQHCs and outpatient hospitals may also provide ASD treatment services through BCaBAs or technicians working under the supervision of a Performing Provider affiliated with the clinic, FQHC, or hospital, as applicable, so long as the BCaBA or technician meets the qualifications described in item (ii) immediately below.

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ii. Provider Qualifications of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs), Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) and Technicians: BCaBAs, RBTs and Technicians provide ASD treatment services (excluding group ASD treatment services, which must be performed by a Performing Provider) under the supervision of a Performing Provider (including Performing Providers who are in solo practice, as part of a provider group, and/or who are affiliated with a clinic, FQHC, or hospital) and must have at least all of the following:

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State: CONNECTICUT
AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
CATEGORICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13(c). Preventive Services
Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

1. Education and Experience. Meet one of the following:

a. Be certified as a BCaBA by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. ~~No additional education or experience is required beyond the requirements already included in the BCaBA credential, so long as such experience includes not less than six months of full time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services.~~ For BCaBAs, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than five percent of the amount of hours that the BCaBA is providing ASD treatment services to each member;

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b. Be registered as a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT). For RBTs, on an ongoing basis, the Performer Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than five percent of the amount of hours that the RBT is providing ASD treatment services to each member.

a.c. Have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in a behavioral health field, behavior analysis or a related field, ~~plus six months of full time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services.~~ Such experience may occur at any time, including before, during or after receiving the bachelor's degree or any combination. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than five percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member.

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b.d. Have an associate's degree or an equivalent number of credit hours with a passing grade from an accredited college or university in a behavioral health field, behavior analysis or a related field, ~~plus one year of full time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services.~~ Such experience may occur at any time, including before, during or after receiving the associate's degree or any combination. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less

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13(c). Preventive Services
Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

than five percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member;

~~e. Have an associate's degree or an equivalent number of credit hours with a passing grade from an accredited college or university in a behavioral health field, behavior analysis or a related field, plus six months of full-time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services. Such experience may occur at any time, including before, during or after receiving the associate's degree or any combination thereof. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than ten percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member; or~~

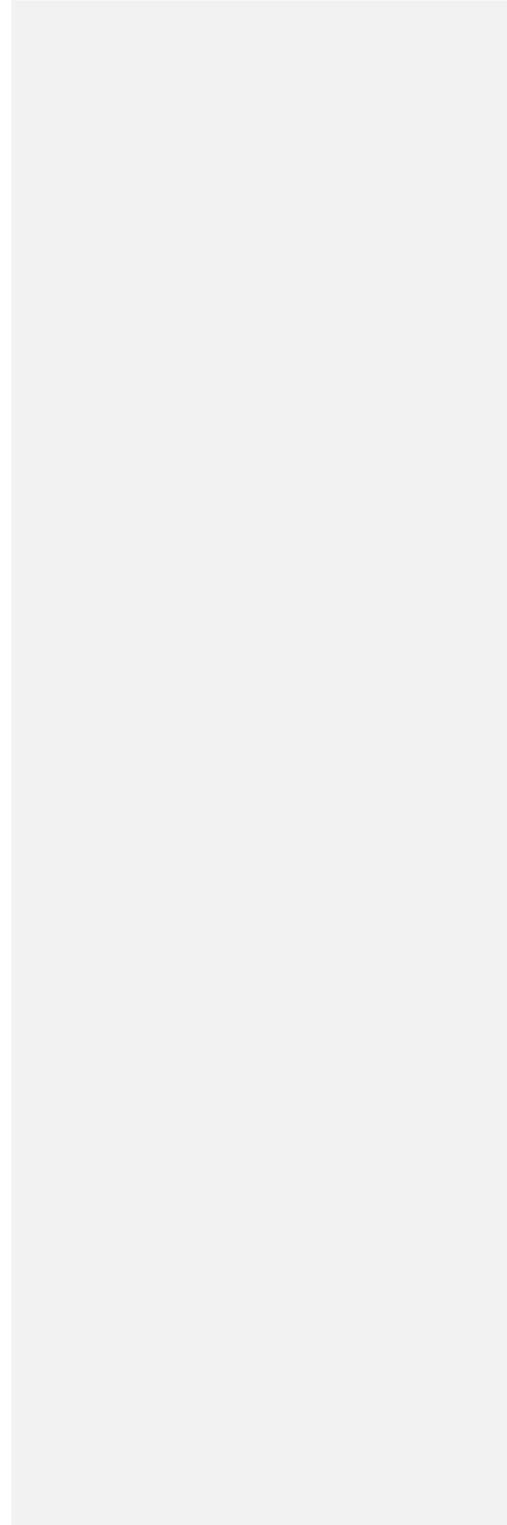
~~d.e. Have a high school diploma, plus 40 hours of training from the hiring and billing provider in ASD treatment services before the provider can bill for their services three years of full-time experience providing ASD treatment services or other direct service to individuals under age twenty-one with ASD. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than ten percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member.~~

2. Six hours of training in ASD services within each year of employment documented in the employee record the previous year, which may include in-house training and may overlap with any continuing education required for the BCaBA or technician to maintain any applicable license, certification or other credential.

- e. Supervision of BCaBAs, RBTs and Technicians. All ASD treatment services performed by a BCaBA, RBT or Technician must be supervised by a qualified Performing Provider (described above). Such supervision must:
 - i. Be one-on-one with the supervising Performing Provider and the BCaBA, RBT or Technician and documented on an ongoing basis.

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13(c). Preventive Services
Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

- iii. Continue on an ongoing basis throughout the time that ASD treatment services are being provided to the individual.
- iv. Include, on a regular basis, the Performing Provider directly supervising the BCaBA, RBT or Technician while such BCaBA, RBT or Technician is providing services to the individual, although this direct supervision is not required if the Performing Provider is providing observation and direction services on an ongoing basis.

C. Limitations

- 1. Total ASD treatment services from all sources may only be the amount medically necessary for each individual.
- 2. DSS shall not pay for program services or components of services that:
 - a. Are of an unproven, experimental, cosmetic or research nature.
 - b. Do not relate to the individual's diagnosis, symptoms, functional limitations or medical history.
 - c. Are intended solely to prepare individuals for paid or unpaid employment or for vocational equipment and uniforms.
 - d. Are solely educational, vocational, recreational, or social.
 - e. Are not coverable within the preventive services benefit category, such as respite care, child care, or other custodial services.
 - f. Are provided by an individual to that individual's spouse or to that individual's natural or adoptive parent, child, sibling, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, grandparent, or grandchild.

B. Free Choice of Provider

Each individual for whom the services described in this section are medically necessary has a free choice of any provider qualified to perform the service or services required (qualifications described above), who undertakes to provide such services and who is enrolled as a Medicaid provider.

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State: CONNECTICUT
AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
MEDICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13(c). Preventive Services
Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

1. Development and Updates to the Program Book

- a. Description: At the discretion of the Performing Provider, the Performing Provider may develop and, as appropriate, perform ongoing updates to a Program Book, which is a tool for use by providers, beneficiaries, and caregivers to ensure that the services and goals in the behavioral plan of care remain appropriate and properly implemented. The Program Book is a document that: (i) includes details of specific interventions and related information regarding ASD treatment services for an individual that are designed to implement the short short-term goals and objectives outlined in the behavioral plan of care; (ii) is individually tailored to each individual in accordance with the behavioral plan of care; and (iii) is updated on an ongoing basis as appropriate for each individual. Prior authorization is required for the development of and updates to a Program Book.
- b. Qualified Providers: Same qualifications as for Qualified Providers of behavior assessments, as described above.

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2. ASD Treatment Services

- a. Description: ASD treatment services include a variety of behavioral interventions, which have been identified as evidence-based by nationally recognized research reviews, identified as evidence-based by other nationally recognized substantial scientific and clinical evidence, and/or any other intervention supported by credible scientific or clinical evidence, as appropriate to each individual. These services are designed to be delivered primarily in the home and in other community settings but may be delivered in a licensed behavioral health clinic, hospital outpatient program, federally qualified health center, if within their scope of work and other licensed healthcare facilities or clinics. ASD treatment services are primarily provided separately to each individual. In addition to individual ASD treatment services, ASD treatment services for groups of individuals (“group ASD treatment services”) may be

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MEDICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13(c). Preventive Services

Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

of the caregiver for the benefit of the individual and enables the caregiver to be able to reinforce the services for the individual in a clinically effective manner.

- c. Presence / Availability of Caregiver: In order to ensure that the services are covered under the preventive services benefit category and do not include services not coverable under section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act, including, but not limited to, child care or respite services, as well as to ensure the clinical success of the services, a caregiver shall be present or available at all times in or around the home when services are being provided in the home in order to care for members under age eighteen, even when the caregiver is not directly participating in the services. For services provided outside of the home, a caregiver shall be present or available as necessary based on the ASD treatment services provider's clinical judgment.

- d. Qualified Providers. Any of the following providers are qualified to perform ASD treatment services:
 - i. Performing Providers, Clinics, FQHCs and Outpatient Hospitals: Same qualifications as Qualified Providers of behavior assessments, as described above. Clinics, FQHCs and outpatient hospitals may also provide ASD treatment services through BCaBAs or technicians working under the supervision of a Performing Provider affiliated with the clinic, FQHC, or hospital, as applicable, so long as the BCaBA or technician meets the qualifications described in item (ii) immediately below.

 - ii. Provider Qualifications of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs), Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT) and Technicians: BCaBAs, RBTs and Technicians provide ASD treatment services (excluding group ASD treatment services, which must be performed by a Performing Provider) under the supervision of a Performing Provider (including Performing Providers who are in solo practice, as part of a provider group, and/or who are affiliated with a clinic, FQHC, or hospital) and must have at least all of the following:

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State: CONNECTICUT
AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
MEDICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13(c). Preventive Services
Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

1. Education and Experience. Meet one of the following:
 - a. Be certified as a BCaBA by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. ~~No additional education or experience is required beyond the requirements already included in the BCaBA credential, so long as such experience includes not less than six months of full time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services.~~ For BCaBAs, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than five percent of the amount of hours that the BCaBA is providing ASD treatment services to each member;
 - b. ~~Be registered as a RBT. For RBTs, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than five percent of the amount of hours that the RBT is providing ASD treatment services to each member.~~
 - b.c. Have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in a behavioral health field, behavior analysis or a related field, ~~plus six months of full time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services.~~ Such experience may occur at any time, including before, during or after receiving the bachelor's degree or any combination. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than five percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member;
 - e.d. Have an associate's degree or an equivalent number of credit hours with a passing grade from an accredited college or university in a behavioral health field, behavior analysis or a related field, ~~plus one year of full time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services.~~ Such experience may occur at any time, including before, during or after receiving the associate's degree or any combination. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less

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State: CONNECTICUT

**AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
MEDICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL**

13(c). Preventive Services

Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

than five percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member;

- ~~d. Have an associate's degree or an equivalent number of credit hours with a passing grade from an accredited college or university in a behavioral health field, behavior analysis or a related field, plus six months of full-time equivalent experience providing ASD treatment services. Such experience may occur at any time, including before, during or after receiving the associate's degree or any combination thereof. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than ten percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member; or~~
 - e. Have a high school diploma, 40 hours of training from the hiring and billing providers in ASD treatment services before the provider can bill for their services. All training must be documented in the technician's employee record plus three years of full time experience providing ASD treatment services or other direct service to individuals under age twenty one with ASD. For technicians described in this subparagraph, on an ongoing basis, the Performing Provider shall provide observation and direction for not less than ten percent of the amount of hours that the technician is providing ASD treatment services to each member.
2. Six hours of training in ASD services within ~~each year of employment documented in the employee record~~the previous year, which may include in-house training and may overlap with any continuing education required for the BCaBA or technician to maintain any applicable license, certification or other credential.

- e. Supervision of BCaBAs, RBTs and Technicians. All ASD treatment services performed by a BCaBA, RBT or Technician must be supervised by a qualified Performing Provider (described above). Such supervision must:
 - i. Be one-on-one with the supervising Performing Provider and the BCaBA, RBT or Technician and documented on an ongoing basis.

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State: CONNECTICUT
AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
MEDICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13(c). Preventive Services
Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT (continued)

- ii. Continue on an ongoing basis throughout the time that ASD treatment services are being provided to the individual.
- iii. Include, on a regular basis, the Performing Provider directly supervising the BCaBA, RBT or Technician while such BCaBA, RBT or Technician is providing services to the individual, although this direct supervision is not required if the Performing Provider is providing observation and direction services on an ongoing basis.

C. Limitations

- 1. Total ASD treatment services from all sources may only be the amount medically necessary for each individual.
- 2. DSS shall not pay for program services or components of services that:
 - a. Are of an unproven, experimental, cosmetic or research nature.
 - b. Do not relate to the individual's diagnosis, symptoms, functional limitations or medical history.
 - c. Are intended solely to prepare individuals for paid or unpaid employment or for vocational equipment and uniforms.
 - d. Are solely educational, vocational, recreational, or social.
 - e. Are not coverable within the preventive services benefit category, such as respite care, child care, or other custodial services.
 - f. Are provided by an individual to that individual's spouse or to that individual's natural or adoptive parent, child, sibling, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, grandparent, or grandchild.

D. Free Choice of Provider

Each individual for whom the services described in this section are medically necessary has a free choice of any provider qualified to perform the service or services required (qualifications described above), who undertakes to provide such services and who is enrolled as a Medicaid provider.

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STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
STATE CONNECTICUT

13. c. Preventive Services

Services to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorders Pursuant to EPSDT

Fees for services to treat autism spectrum disorders pursuant to EPSDT were set as of July 1, ~~2025~~2024, and are effective for services provided on or after that date. The fee schedules can be accessed and downloaded by going to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program website: www.ctdssmap.com. From this web page, go to “Provider,” then to “Provider Fee Schedule Download” and select the fee schedule applicable to the qualified provider. Fees are the same for governmental and private providers.

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