

# Healthcare Professional Guidelines for Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations for ABA Services

Humana Healthy Horizons® in Louisiana provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for Medicaid members after they obtain a Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation recommending such services. Humana will pay for ABA, even for members that get their physical health services through the legacy Medicaid program.

This document serves as a reference guide for healthcare professionals who perform Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations (CDEs) for Medicaid members enrolled in Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana.

## Who is eligible for Medicaid-covered ABA services?

The Louisiana Medicaid program covers ABA services for Medicaid members who:

- Are under 21 years old
- Exhibit excesses and/or deficits of behaviors that significantly interfere with home or community activities. Examples include but are not limited to aggression, self-injury, elopement, impaired development in the areas of communication and/or social interaction, etc.
- Have a diagnosis after a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation (CDE) by a qualified health care professional for autism spectrum disorder or any other condition for which ABA services are recognized as therapeutically necessary

Please note: Unlike many private health plans, the Louisiana Medicaid program does not require that the eligible member be diagnosed with autism or ASD to receive Medicaid-covered ABA services.



## Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations (CDEs) Requirements

- The healthcare professional must be in-network with Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana to bill Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana for performing the CDE or obtain a single case agreement with the MCO.
- The healthcare professional will prescribe and/or recommend ABA services through the CDE.
- See the end of this document for types of healthcare professionals that may perform CDEs.
- After the healthcare professional completes the CDE, the member gives it to an ABA provider that the member selected. The ABA provider submits the CDE to Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana to request prior authorization.

### The CDE is a report from a healthcare professional detailing, at a minimum:

- A thorough clinical history with the member's informed parent/caregiver, inclusive of developmental and psychological history
- Direct observation (including virtual) of the member, including, but not limited to, assessment of current functioning in social and communicative behaviors and play or peer interactive behaviors
- A review of available records
- A valid Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5 (DSM-5), or current edition, diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder or any other condition for which ABA services are recognized as therapeutically appropriate
- Justification/rationale for referral or non-referral of the member for ABA services
- Recommendations for any other treatment

Please note: Unlike many private health plans, the Louisiana Medicaid program does not require specific assessments (such as the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule or the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales) to be conducted for an eligible member to receive Medicaid-covered ABA services.

### Need for additional assessments

If the results of the initial screening by the health care professional are inconclusive, or if there is a lack of clarity about the beneficiary's primary diagnosis, comorbid conditions, or the medical necessity of ABA services or other recommended treatment, care, or services, the health care professional may need to perform:

- Autism-specific assessments
- Assessments of general psychopathology
- Cognitive/developmental assessments
- Assessments of adaptive behavior

### Prior authorization for additional assessments

Humana does not require prior approval for services that may be part of performing a CDE using the following HCPC codes:

90791	96127	96132	99202	99341
90792	96130	96133	99203	99342
96116	96131	96136	99204	99344
96121	99345	96137	99205	

The type of provider who may bill under each code is listed below.

**Qualified health care professional (QHCP)**

- Pediatricians using the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised with Follow-up (MCHAT-R/F), and clinical judgment may diagnosis and complete a CDE.
- For children who receive a high-risk score of  $\geq$  eight on the MCHAT-R/F, pediatricians can independently make a diagnosis of autism (if their clinical judgment concurs with this score).
- For children who receive a moderate risk score of three to seven on the MCHAT-R/F, pediatricians can complete the MCHAT-R/F follow-up interview, and based on their confidence in their clinical judgment, either independently make a diagnosis of autism or refer to a subspecialist listed below for a diagnostic evaluation:
  - a. Pediatric Neurologist
  - b. Developmental pediatrician
  - c. Psychologist
  - d. Psychiatrist
  - e. Pediatrician under a joint working agreement with an interdisciplinary team (IDT) of providers who are qualified to diagnose developmental disabilities
  - f. Nurse practitioner (NP) practicing under the supervision of a pediatric neurologist developmental pediatrician, psychologist, or psychiatrist; or
  - g. Licensed individual, including speech and language pathologist, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), or licensed professional counselor (LPC), who meets the requirements of and qualify as a QHCP when:
    - i. Individual's scope of practice includes a differential diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and comorbid disorders for the age and/or cognitive level of the beneficiary;
    - ii. Individual has at least two years of experience providing such diagnostic assessments and treatments or is being supervised by someone who is listed as a QHCP under 1-5 above; and
    - iii. If the licensed individual is working under the supervision of a QHCP, the QHCP must sign off on the CDE as having reviewed the document and being in agreement with the diagnosis and recommendation.

For additional provider requirements regarding CDE, please refer to the Louisiana Medicaid Applied Behavior Analysis Manual for additional provider requirements.

**Prior authorization**

Prior approval is required for services for members whose conditions are not readily apparent to a trained professional. Please refer to the Coding and Billing section (pages 4-6) to review the codes requiring and not requiring authorization.

The healthcare professional must provide explanation to Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana why any additional assessments billed under these latter codes are medically necessary.

### Billing for a multidisciplinary team

Billing codes will depend on the types of professionals on the team. The codes that each type of professional may use for the CDE and the additional assessments are listed below. Please refer to the Coding and Billing section (pages 4-6) to review the appropriate billing codes by provider type.

### Claims

Claims can be processed electronically or through hard copies to Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana. Details on the submission of claims can be found at [Claims Submissions - Humana](#)

### Coding and Billing Guide

Provider Types	Code	Prior Authorization	Reimbursement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• APRN</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> <li>• Licensed clinical social worker (LCSW)</li> <li>• Licensed professional counselor (LPC), LPC</li> <li>• LMFT</li> </ul>	90791 – Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> </ul>	90792 – Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation With Medical Services	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule

Provider Types	Code	Prior Authorization	Reimbursement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• APRN</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> </ul>	96116 – Neurobehavioral Status Examination, First Hour	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> </ul>	96121 - Neurobehavioral Status Examination, Each Additional Hour	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	96127 – Brief Emotional/Behavioral Assessment	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> </ul>	96130 – Psychological Testing Evaluation Services by Physician/QHP, First Hour	Yes	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> </ul>	96131 - Psychological Testing Evaluation Services by Physician/QHP, Each Additional Hour	Yes	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule

Provider Types	Code	Prior Authorization	Reimbursement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> </ul>	96132 - Neuropsychological Testing Evaluation Services by Physician/QHP, First Hour	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> </ul>	96133 - Neuropsychological Testing Evaluation Services by Physician/QHP, Each Additional Hour	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> </ul>	96136 – Psychological or Neuropsych Test Admin/Scoring by Physician/QHP, 2 or More Tests, Each Additional 30 Minutes	Yes	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> </ul>	96137 - Psychological or Neuropsych Test Admin/Scoring by Physician/QHP, 2 or More Tests, First 30 Minutes	Yes	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	99202 –New Patient Office or Other Outpatient	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule

Provider Types	Code	Prior Authorization	Reimbursement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	99203 - New Patient Office or Other Outpatient	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	99204 - New Patient Office or Other Outpatient	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	99205 - New Patient Office or Other Outpatient	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	99341 – New Patient Home Visit, Typically 15 Mins	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	99342 - New Patient Home Visit, Typically 30 Mins	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrician</li> <li>• Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>• Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>• Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> </ul>	99344 - New Patient Home Visit, Typically 60 Mins	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule

Provider Types	Code	Prior Authorization	Reimbursement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pediatrician</li> <li>Pediatric Neurologist</li> <li>Developmental pediatrician</li> <li>Nurse practitioner (NP)</li> <li>Speech and language pathologist</li> </ul>	99345 - New Patient Home Visit, Typically 75 Mins	No	100% published Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule

## Questions

If you have further questions, including questions about rates or need assistance regarding a CDE contact us at **800-448-3810**.

## Which healthcare professionals may complete a CDE?

Pediatricians using the MCHAT-R/F and clinical judgment may diagnose and complete a CDE. For children who receive a high-risk score of  $\geq 8$  on the MCHAT-R/F, pediatricians can independently make a diagnosis of autism (if their clinical judgment concurs with this score). For children who receive a moderate risk score of 3 to 7 on the MCHAT-R/F, pediatricians can complete the MCHAT-R/F follow-up interview, and based on their confidence in their clinical judgment, either independently make a diagnosis of autism or refer to a subspecialist for a diagnostic evaluation:

- Pediatric neurologist
- Developmental pediatrician
- Psychologist (including a medical psychologist)
- Psychiatrist (particularly pediatric and child psychiatrist)
- A pediatrician under a joint working agreement with an interdisciplinary team of providers who are qualified to diagnose developmental disabilities
- A nurse practitioner practicing under the supervision of a pediatric neurologist developmental pediatrician, psychologist or psychiatrist
- Licensed individual, including speech and language pathologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed professional counselor, when:
  - The individual's scope of practice includes a differential diagnosis of ASD and comorbid disorders for the age and/or cognitive level of the member.
  - The individual has at least two years of experience providing such diagnostic assessments for ASD and comorbid disorders and treatments or is being supervised by a pediatric neurologist, developmental pediatrician, psychologist (including medical psychologist) or psychiatrist.