

PROVIDER ALERT

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program: Update to Referral Process and ABA Designator Visible to Providers

February 17, 2022

Target Audience: ABA Providers

To improve participant and provider experiences, Optum Maryland is updating the referral process for connecting families with available ABA providers. Participant pre-screening will continue to ensure that families seeking assistance with locating ABA providers have the documentation required to access the ABA benefit. Effective immediately, the following changes will be made to the ABA referral process:

1. All ABA provider groups should complete the following survey identifying if they are able (within 30 calendar days) to provide ABA services to Maryland Medicaid participants or whenever there is a change in their ability to accept new referrals based on:
 - a. County
 - b. Hours of availability within a specific county
 - c. Age, or
 - d. Capacity for high-need participants.

[Optum Maryland ABA Providers Accepting Referrals Availability Survey](#)

2. Optum Maryland will use the results of the survey to match families with ABA provider groups based on each family's needs and the provider's indicated capacity.

Families will continue to receive a comprehensive list of all available ABA provider groups matching the referral criteria (county, time frame, and special conditions) as appropriate.

3. When an ABA provider group is contacted by a family seeking ABA services, the provider should:

- a. Answer any questions the family/caregiver may have, understanding that the family must ultimately select one ABA provider group with which to proceed.
- b. If selected by the family, obtain the participant's Maryland Medicaid number located on the participant's Medicaid identification card.



- c. Locate the participant in the [Incedo Provider Portal](#).

For more information on locating a participant in Incedo, please reference the following training video for details: [Locating a Participant in Incedo](#).

4. **NEW:** ABA Designator Added to the Incedo Provider Portal



Optum Maryland has added an ABA Designator that is visible in Incedo in the following circumstances:

- a. **For new participants** - All documentation is on file, and pre-screening is sufficient to access the ABA benefit; or
- b. **For existing participants currently authorized for services** - The CDE and other required documentation have been reviewed and validated.

The ABA Designator is not visible when:

- a. Optum Maryland has not yet completed pre-screening procedures to validate that a participant's documentation is sufficient to access the ABA benefit; or
- b. The participant's CDE has expired, and clinical confirmation of an ASD diagnosis is required for the participant to continue accessing ABA treatment.

For more information on the initial and ongoing requirements for ABA services please refer to the [Introducing Updated Initial & Ongoing Requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) Services](#) Provider Alert.

Please direct any questions to: ombhaba@optum.com.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team