



To: All Providers and Stakeholders
From: Cham Trowell, UM Director
Date: July 3, 2019
Subject: CPT Transition code information on Research Based Behavioral Health Treatment (RB-BHT)

Trillium Health Resources has been approving medically necessary services for children with Autism under EPSDT for the service of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). In October 2018, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced in JC308 the State Plan Amendment for Research Based Behavioral Health Treatment (RB- BHT) was approved. This service replaces ABA. At that time, CMS had not released codes or rates to use, nor had the policy been approved. In March 2019, Clinical Coverage Policy 8F for Research Based-Behavioral Health Treatment was published for Public Comment from 3/14/19 to 4/20/19. In May 2019, after the public comment time frame, CMS announced the Category III to Category I conversion of CPT codes for RB-BHT for MCOs/LMEs was scheduled for July 2019. This communication is to assist with transition of ABA codes to RB-BHT codes. At this time, no Clinical Coverage Policy has been posted.

During this transition, Trillium will do our best to work with members and providers. To support our members and our providers we will allow the service of RH-BHT to be open as no authorization required. **No prior authorization** will begin on July 1 2019 for any new service or unprocessed EPSDT requests. The service will remain as no authorization required until October 1, 2019. Authorizations for concurrent services of RB-BHT may be requested beginning September 15.

Individuals accessing RB-BHT through the LME-MCO system will continue to use CPT Category III codes for ABA for dates of service prior to June 30, 2019. For dates of service on or after July 1, 2019, providers will need to start using the Category I RB-BHT code for claims submission and authorization requests.

If you submitted and were paid for claims using the ABA service codes, then replacement claims using the new RB-BHT service code will need to be submitted for dates of service on or after July 1, 2019, via electronic 837 transaction or **entered** into Provider Direct. Any claims previously paid at the incorrect reimbursement rate will be reprocessed.

On July 1, 2019 LME-MCOs were issued Communication Bulletin # J331 correcting the rates for the new RB-BHT service codes. The current fee for service rates for RB-BHT CPT are listed below and can be found at <https://files.nc.gov/ncdma/Revised-RBI-BHT-rate-sheet.pdf>

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | RATE | FREQUENCY |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| 97151 | RBI-BHT Comp Assessment | 26.56 | 15 minutes |
| 97152 | RBI-BHT Assessment F-U | 53.65 | 15 minutes |
| 97153 | RBI-BHT ABA | 18.09 | 15 minutes |
| 97154 | RBI-BHT ABA>2 | 9.88 | 15 minutes |
| 97155 | RBI-BHT Supervision, Parent Training | 28.00 | 15 minutes |
| 97156 | RBI-BHT Parent Training w/o Child | 20.60 | 15 minutes |
| 97157 | Parent Training - grp | 10.00 | 15 minutes |

The link below is the Medicaid Bulletin link and includes all information on the transition of codes. The link also includes important information about updating evaluation, and plans accordingly specific to members' needs.

- <https://files.nc.gov/ncdma/documents/files/Medicaid-Bulletin-2019-5.pdf>
- <https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/Joint-Communication-Bulletin-J326-RB-BHT-Providers-and-CPT-Code-Information.pdf>

Questions may be sent to the UM@TrilliumNC.org

cc: Cindy Ehlers, Clinical Director