



PROVIDER ALERT

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program: Update to Telehealth Requirements for Treatment Plan Requirements

October 5, 2023

Target Audience: ABA Providers

Effective October 16, 2023, the below Telehealth Readiness Checklist will be a required element to be added to treatment plans when requesting telehealth services for 97155, 97156 and 97157.

Please ensure that all areas of the Telehealth Readiness Checklist are assessed and that the checklist is being utilized to determine if telehealth services are appropriate for the participant and the family.

When billing for services that are rendered via two-way HIPAA compliant audio-visual telehealth, providers must bill using the GT modifier and Place of Service 11 to indicate telehealth delivery model.

Please forward any questions to MarylandProviderRelations@optum.com.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team

Telehealth Readiness Checklist	
Date completed:	
Personnel Education/Qualifications	Yes / No
Did each practitioner (BCBA/RBT/BT) attend training on technology related to telehealth (hardware, software, camera)?	
Did each practitioner (BCBA/RBT/BT) attend training or obtain supervision related to telehealth-specific ABA interventions?	
Technology and Data Confidentiality	Yes / No
Do each of the practitioners (BCBA/RBT/BT) have the necessary equipment to provider telehealth services per COMAR10.09.49 (appropriate internet capabilities, two-way HIPAA compliant platform, ability to alter resolution, focus, and zoom)?	
Do the parents/caregivers have the necessary equipment to receive telehealth services?	
Is there a process in place in the event technological issues arise during telehealth services?	
Has the practitioner explained the risks related to use of technology for telehealth services?	
Implementation and Evaluation	Yes / No
Does the practitioner have monitoring tools in place to evaluate the implementation of telehealth services?	
Does the practitioner have monitoring tools in place to evaluate the effectiveness of telehealth services related to the participant's progress or lack of progress?	
Environmental Evaluation	Yes / No
Is the participant's environment set up to accommodate telehealth services (i.e., clean, private, free of distractions)?	
Is there a process in place to ensure the participant's environment remains telehealth ready?	
Is the BCBA's environment safe to conduct telehealth services (free of distraction, private)?	
Capabilities of Participant/Parent	Yes / No
Is the participant able to see the practitioner on the screen without displaying interfering behaviors that would cause the practitioner to block the two way camera?	
Is the participant able to follow directions given by parents/caregivers without in-person supports?	
Are the parents/caregivers able to follow technical instructions given by the practitioner?	
Standard of Care Considerations and Consent	Yes / No
Has the practitioner taken into account any cultural considerations when proposing telehealth services?	
Is the parent/caregiver interested in telehealth services and signed consent for telehealth services?	
Does the consent form include information related to the risks and benefits of telehealth services including confidentiality?	
Does the consent form include the ability to opt out of telehealth services?	