

Updated ABA Medical Necessity Criteria for Medi-Cal, Effective April 20, 2026

New criteria adopted to support consistent, needs-based ABA care for Medi-Cal patients under age 21

Effective April 20, 2026, the medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal patients will be updated with the adoption of clinical policy **CA.CP.BH.104 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**. This change supports more individualized, needs-based care for patients under age 21 by promoting developmental, behavioral and functional improvements for them and their families.

This ABA medical necessity criteria set replaces the **Council of Autism Service Providers** criteria for **Medi-Cal only**.

How to access ABA policies

View the complete ABA clinical policies at the link below:

- Medical Policies – <https://bit.ly/MedicalPolicies>
 - CA.CP.BH.104 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
 - CA.CP.BH.105 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Documentation Requirements

Resources

For additional information about Autism Spectrum Disorders and ABA, referrals, and prior authorization forms, refer to **Autism Spectrum Disorders** in the Medi-Cal Provider Operations Manual at <https://bit.ly/ProvLib-Autism>.

Need help? Contact us

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact CalViva Health at 888-893-1569. Behavioral Health providers can call 844-966-0298.

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO:

- Participating Physician Groups
- Ancillary Providers
- Behavioral Health Providers

PROVIDER SERVICES

CalViva Health Medi-Cal (including ECM and CS providers) –
888-893-1569

Behavioral health providers –
844-966-0298

PROVIDER PORTAL

provider.healthnetcalifornia.com