



Aetna Better Health<sup>®</sup>  
of Kentucky

# NETWORK NOTICE

Date:	December 17, 2024
To:	All Network Providers
From:	Provider Experience
Subject:	<b>Applied Behavior Analysis</b> – Medical Necessity Criteria and Claims Edit
Document ID:	Aetna-2069

**The following is an update to the prior notice sent 11/7/2024.**

## Medical Necessity Criteria for Applied Behavior Analysis

Aetna Better Health of Kentucky would like to provide information regarding medical necessity criteria for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and give notice of a claims edit that will be in effect as of **January 1, 2025**.

We comply with federal and state regulations when selecting medical necessity criteria and have adopted Milliman Clinical Guidelines (MCG) as the primary criteria for medical necessity for all services except for substance use treatment services. The ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) criteria is the treatment criteria for substance-related treatment.

Per the MCG BHG (Behavioral Healthcare Guideline) for Applied Behavior Analysis, ABA is appropriate in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

- In the absence of co-occurring ASD, there is a lack of high-quality research evidence to support the use of applied behavior analysis (ABA). ABA is considered experimental, investigational, or unproven for all other non-ASD indications because of insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed literature.
- Extensive research supports the efficacy of ABA specifically for managing behaviors and improving skills impacted by autism, making it the primary justification for requiring an ASD diagnosis for coverage.

At the time of this notice to providers, prior authorization remains waived by The Kentucky Department of Medicaid Services for behavioral health outpatient services, including ABA. To ensure alignment with MCG criteria:

- Aetna Better Health of Kentucky will require that claims submitted for ABA services reflect the medical necessity requirement that recipients of ABA services have received a

diagnosis of ASD and that diagnosis should be included on claims for ABA.

- Claims submitted for ABA services without the required ASD diagnosis will be denied.

Providers may appeal denied claims per standard appeal processes.

**Please refer to the following.**

Clinical guidelines and policy bulletins

[Clinical Guidelines & Policy Bulletins | Aetna Medicaid Kentucky](#)

Applied Behavior Analysis Clinical Policy Bulletin

[Applied Behavior Analysis - Medical Clinical Policy Bulletins | Aetna](#)

Grievances and Appeals

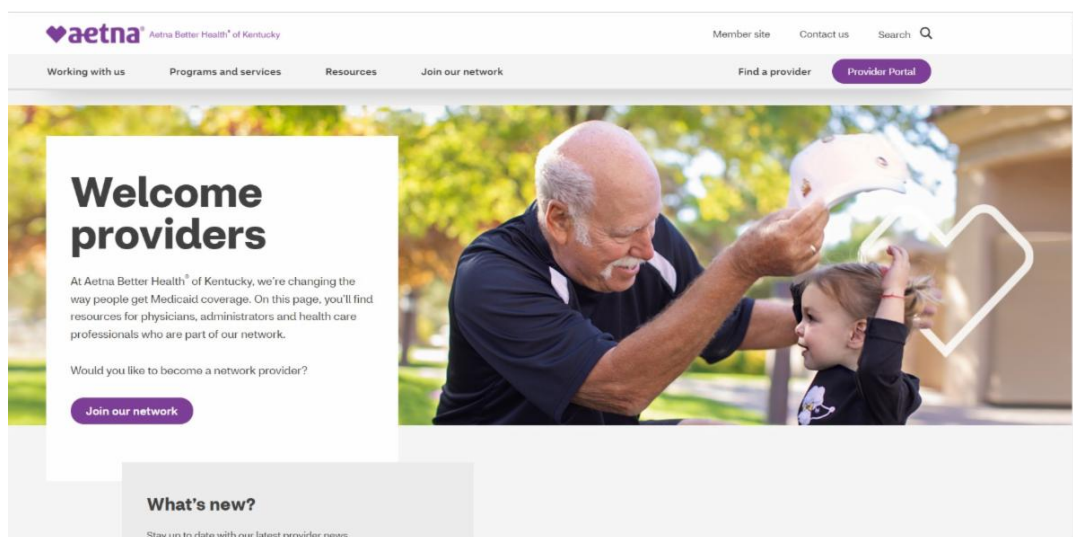
[File a Grievance or Appeal \(for Providers\) | Aetna Medicaid Kentucky](#)



## [Health Plan Website](#)

The health plan website is a resource for members and providers. Providers will find information such as the member handbook, provider manual and the formulary on the health plan website

Visit the Website at: [AetnaBetterHealth.com/Kentucky](https://AetnaBetterHealth.com/Kentucky)



## Still have questions?

Take advantage of our [CONTACT US WEB FORM](#). This form allows you to share the right information from the start, so you don't have to spend valuable time tracking down the help you need. As an added benefit for us both, we have ensured that any request or inquiry made through this form is routed to the appropriate department.

<https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/kentucky/providers/contact-us.html>

As always, do not hesitate to contact your Network Manager with any questions or comments.

[Network Relations Contact Information.pdf \(aetnabetterhealth.com\)](#)

Thank you for your valued partnership in caring for our Aetna Better Health of Kentucky Members.



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