



MICHIGAN STATE PAINTERS' INSURANCE FUND

October 2024

NOTICE ABOUT AUTISM BENEFIT COVERAGE

Dear Participant:

This Notice is being provided to describe the Fund's coverage for autism spectrum disorder benefits. Such benefits are covered consistent with the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan autism rider.

Pursuant to such rider, The Fund pays for:

1. The diagnosis and outpatient treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including:

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger's Disorder
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified

as each are defined in the most current American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.

2. Diagnostic services provided by a properly licensed provider, including: assessments and evaluations or tests, including the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule.

3. Treatment prescribed by a properly licensed provider, including:

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) treatment. ABA treatment is subject to the following requirements:
 - Treatment plan – A BCBSM-approved autism evaluation center that evaluates the member will recommend a treatment plan. The plan must include ABA treatment. If BCBSM requests treatment review, BCBSM will pay for it.
 - Preapproval – ABA treatment must be approved by BCBSM before treatment is given. If not, you will have to pay for it. Other autism services do not have to be approved beforehand.
 - Treatment must be provided or supervised by a Behavior Analyst Certification Board certified behavior analyst or a licensed psychologist
- Behavioral Health Treatment – Evidence-based counseling and treatment programs, including ABA, that meet both of the following requirements:
 - Are necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.
 - Are provided or supervised by a board-certified behavior analyst or a licensed psychologist so long as the services performed are commensurate with the psychologist's formal university training and supervised experience.
- Psychiatric care, including a psychiatrist's direct or consulting services.

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- Psychological care, including a psychologist's direct or consulting services.
- Therapeutic care. Evidence-based services from licensed providers, including:
 - Physical therapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - Speech and language pathology
 - Services from a social worker
 - Nutritional therapy from a physician
 - Genetic testing, as recommended in the treatment plan

Note: Benefits for autism treatment are in addition to any other mental health or medical benefits provided by the Fund.

The Fund does not pay for:

ABA treatment for members over the age of 18. This limitation does not apply to:

- Other mental health services to treat or diagnose autism
- Medical services, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology services, genetic testing or nutritional therapy to treat or diagnose autism

For more information, please visit bcbsm.com/autismfaq. If you have any questions regarding Autism benefit coverage, please contact the Fund Office at 1-800-482-0948.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees
Michigan State Painters Insurance Fund