Autism spectrum disorder services and telemedicine

In response to ongoing concerns and questions regarding COVID-19 coronavirus disease and the use of telemedicine for various services provided for autism spectrum disorder, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network have identified the rules outlined below.

Please reference the telehealth basics** and practice guidelines** pages of the American Telemedicine Association website to determine how to adhere to HIPAA requirements and protect patient confidentiality, as required in your Blue Cross or BCN contract.

As previously communicated in the March 17, 2020 web-DENIS broadcast message, the originating site requirement for telemedicine services is removed effective immediately. Standard member cost-sharing will apply according to the member’s benefits.

The following services for autism spectrum disorder aren’t covered via telemedicine.

- *97151: Assessment, which includes live interaction with the child. This service is critical to the evaluation process and is not covered via telemedicine.
- *97153: Applied behavior analysis, which is a direct face-to-face procedure. This service is not covered through telemedicine.

The following services for autism spectrum disorder are covered via telemedicine.

- *97155: Protocol modification, which can use a combination of face-to-face and telemedicine services (up to 50% of the time of the services provided) as long as a technician is present face to face.
- *97156: Family adaptive behavioral treatment guidance: which can be provided via telemedicine services (up to 100% of the time of the services provided).
- *97157: Multi-family group adaptive behavioral treatment guidance, which can be provided via telemedicine services (up to 100% of the time of the services provided).

The latest information about COVID-19 is available on our Coronavirus information updates for providers page, which is available by clicking on BCN Provider Publications and Resources or BCBSM Newsletters and Resources.
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