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Members of the Appropriation and Human Services Committees,

North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
North Dakota State Legislature  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a research- and evidence-based treatment for autism spectrum disorder. ABA uses positive reinforcement strategies to teach learners with autism necessary communication, social, and daily living skills that are aimed at increasing the learner's independence. ABA services are a billable service in the State of North Dakota through private insurers and North Dakota Medicaid.

Currently, rates of reimbursement are not at par with neighboring States that provide similar services with a greater rate of reimbursement. Continuation of current rates may negatively impact providers' ability to provide medically necessary treatment of autism which could exclude thousands of children with autism who do not have private insurance from ABA services.

There are six CPT codes that are billable through NDMA, while Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Behavior Analysts, and Registered Behavior Technicians provide services that would be covered by seven CPT codes. To date, parent training sessions are not a billable service through NDMA. Although this service is generally required by private insurers (e.g., Blue Cross/Blue Shield ND, Tri-Care) it still not reimbursable as a service by NDMA. Parent training is both cost-effective and clinically effective in the treatment of autism.

We are respectfully requesting that parent training Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment and Guidance (CPT code 97156) be included as part of the Medicaid expansion and reimbursed at commensurate rates found within our region. Average rates based on the rates found in Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin suggest a unit cost of \$31.08. We are requesting a 10% increase of this rate to account for inflation at a unit cost of \$34.18.

We are respectfully requesting an increase for all CPT code rates that are used to pay for behavior analytic services to help increase capacity, recruitment, and retention of ABA services. Improvement of rates will also allow North Dakota providers the ability to provide a greater quality service to those North Dakotans who are in need. Increased rates of reimbursement could help prevent staff attrition, and to attract and retain talented providers. Increased rates of reimbursement could be used to build

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and improve training systems in addition to attracting talent outside the state while retaining talented clinicians within the State.

We proposing the following rate increases per CPT code:

	97151	97152	97153	97155	97156	0373T
	per 15	per 15	per 15	per 15	per 15	per 15
Current	\$ 28.71	\$ 21.25	\$ 9.87	\$ 28.71	NA	\$ 11.75
Proposed	\$ 40.45	\$ 30.34	\$ 15.55	\$ 31.58	\$ 34.00	\$ 18.04
Change	29%	30%	40%	10%	NA	35%

97151 and 97152 are assessment codes that Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Registered Behavior Technicians use to assess the severity of symptoms of autism then create individualized treatment plans to be implemented by Registered Behavior Technicians. 97153 is the code used to bill for the implementation of treatment plans. 97155 is the codes used to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment plan, modify treatment components, and supervision of the Registered Behavior Technician implementing the plans. 97156 is the code used to bill for parent training sessions that provide the family with specific training on their learner’s treatment plan so that the family can continue using effective strategies at home. 0373T is an intensive treatment code that is used when two or more technicians are needed to implement a treatment plan.

The rate increases proposed across all CPT codes will allow North Dakota providers to be more aligned with regional rates, thus making North Dakota providers more likely to stay and recruit talented clinicians to provide a medically necessary service to North Dakotans in need.

Respectfully,

The Behavioral Health Leadership of Pediatric Partners



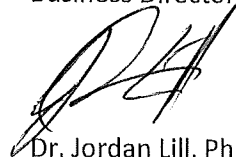
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