

AUTISM SERVICES GUIDANCE

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In order to immediately meet the needs of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has set up a temporary process where families who have a child (or children) diagnosed with ASD can request ASD services. The ASD services must be considered medically necessary by a pediatrician who has done what is called an Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) visit with the child. This visit is to confirm the diagnosis of ASD and recommend that treatment is medically necessary.

Parents or caregivers of children between the ages of 0-21 can submit requests for these services, even if the child is on the PDD Waiver waiting list or the child has already finished receiving services from the PDD waiver. If a child is already receiving Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) Waiver services, this temporary process is not needed to continue receiving services.

Parents have to provide the documents listed, below, to request ASD services. They can be sent to autism@scdhhs.gov and may also be mailed to: Pete Liggett, Ph.D., 1801 Main St., Jefferson Building, 11th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201.

- Results of an EPSDT visit that demonstrates the medical necessity for ASD services
- An attestation by a doctor, developmental pediatrician or current provider with treatment recommendations (e.g., specific problem behaviors to be addressed), including recommended hours
- A comprehensive assessment report that confirms the presence of ASD
 - The report must include developmental history, a detailed description of observed behavior and results from standardized ASD diagnostic tools, as applicable. The diagnostic assessment must have been performed by a qualified examiner with training in the assessment of children and youth with ASD.
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) or (DSM-5) diagnostic profile to establish proof of criteria having been met
- Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (CHAT) or Modified-CHAT assessment form, if applicable
- Medical profile (e.g., summary of pediatric visits and/or medically complex history)
- Speech and language therapy notes, if applicable
- Family history (including, but not limited to, family history of ASD)
- Past therapies profile sheet (e.g., therapy modalities, duration, outcome, etc.)
- Genetic testing, if applicable

A review of the documents can only be done once it is complete. To make sure the request is reviewed quickly, parents should make sure that all the documents are included in the provided package. Review timelines may differ depending on the number of requests received at any given time. However, SCDHHS aims to finishing reviewing completed documents within two weeks of receiving complete set of documents.

SCDHHS is currently working toward a long-term solution for ASD services to be covered by the state plan. This solution will include authorizing treatments that have been found to help children with ASD, including, but not only, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). A child will still have to meet the diagnosis for ASD and their pediatrician must confirm that treatment is medically necessary. The expected timeline for this state plan package is Fall of 2015.