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FLORIDA MEDICAID

A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration

Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert

September 18, 2019

Provider Type(s): 39

Behavior Analysis Updates: Electronic Visit Verification and Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Pilot – Implementation Date Change

In order to give behavior analysis providers in Regions 9, 10, and 11 more time to complete any required training and to ensure the group's rendering providers' contact information is up-to-date in the Florida Medicaid Management Information System or Tellus' EVV system, the Agency will postpone implementation of the EVV requirement as follows:

Beginning **December 1, 2019 through March 1, 2020**, the Agency will initiate a soft-launch of the EVV system, where providers may begin to use the system and all functionality (e.g., scheduling visits, checking in/out, handling exceptions, etc.), while continuing to submit claims via the Provider Web Portal Direct Data Entry (DDE). This means that providers will have the option of submitting claims through Tellus' EVV system but are not required to do so. The Agency encourages providers to become proficient in using all functions within the system (including claims payment) during this time in anticipation of the mandatory launch date which will be no earlier than March 1, 2020. After this date, all BA providers in Regions 9, 10, and 11 will be required to bill through the Tellus EVV system and no longer bill via the DDE.

Clarification of the Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation Requirements

A Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation (CDE) is a thorough review and assessment of the child's development and behavior using national, evidence-based practice standards, which may include:

- Parent or guardian interview
- Teacher assessment

- Diagnostic testing using tools such as:
 - Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2)
 - The Childhood Autism Rating Scale – 2nd edition (CARS2)
 - Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised (M-CHAT-R)
 - Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales (CSBS)
 - Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised (ADI-R)
 - Social Communication Questionnaire
 - Battelle Developmental Inventory– 2nd edition
- Hearing and vision testing
- Genetic testing
- Neurological and/or other medical testing

The CDE must be led by licensed practitioners qualified to assess child developmental disorders such as:

- Developmental Pediatricians
- Child Neurologists
- Child Psychologists
- Child Psychiatrists

Here are the circumstances in which a CDE is required for authorization of BA services:

- In order to initiate (for the first time) behavior analysis services, the Agency requires that the provider submit a copy of the child’s Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation (CDE), along with all other required documentation to eQHealth Solutions, Inc. The CDE will only be required to be submitted **one-time and the child will not have to obtain another CDE to continue services.**
- If a CDE has never been submitted with a previous authorization request. In these circumstances, **the child does not have to get a new CDE if one was completed in their lifetime.** The provider can submit the last CDE completed. If a CDE was never completed, eQHealth will extend the authorization to allow time for the child to obtain a CDE.

Additional Resources and Information

- For assistance with EVV questions, please contact Tellus at 1-833-622-2422.
- For assistance with obtaining prior authorization for behavior analysis services, please contact eQHealth Solutions at 1-855-444-3747.
- Additional questions from providers may be directed to the Florida Medicaid Helpline at 1-877-254-1055.
- Additional information for providers is located on the Agency behavior analysis [website](#).

QUESTIONS? FLMedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com
COMPLAINTS OR ISSUES? ON LINE <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/complaints/> | **CALL** 1-877-254-1055

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