

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network accept only the current version of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, or *DSM*, codes for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, in accordance with the American Psychiatric Association.

Asperger's syndrome, pervasive developmental disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder and Rhett's disorder are recognized as variants of ASD but are not individual diagnoses in and of themselves.

The following services are benefits for members with an ASD diagnosis:

- Applied behavior analysis, or ABA, which is a specialized treatment for ASD
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy as part of ASD services
- Nutritional counseling as part of ASD services
- Other mental health and medical services used to diagnose and treat autism, as individually needed

For dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2022, the above services are benefits for members with an ASD diagnosis regardless of age. For dates of service before Jan. 1, 2022, some of the above services, such as ABA, are benefits for children with an ASD diagnosis only through the age of 18 (until the member's 19th birthday). Always check member benefits and eligibility.

For autism services other than ABA, the following apply:

- Diagnosis — Members must use a health care provider who participates with the member's health plan to diagnose ASD.
- Prior authorization requirements — To determine which services require prior authorization, see the [Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers](#) (PDF). All services must be provided by a participating provider to be payable.

For more information, see the document titled [Obtaining an autism diagnostic evaluation and finding treatment](#) (PDF).

You can find additional autism resources on these pages of the [ereferrals.bcbsm.com](http://ereferrals.bcbsm.com) website:

- [Blue Cross Autism Services](#)
- [BCN Autism Services](#)