

What does Medical Assistance cover for my child?

Medical Assistance covers various behavioral health services not covered under commercial insurance, including Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) and Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) services.

What are BHRS services?

BHRS or “wraparound services” are the most commonly recommended services for children with Autism and other Pervasive Developmental Disorders and include a range of individualized behavior management, treatment, and rehabilitation services provided in community settings. Settings may include the child’s home or school, as well as other settings such as camps, recreational venues, or commercial establishments.

Which types of professionals deliver BHRS services?

BHRS are most widely utilized in the treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. BHRS treatment consists of services delivered as medically necessary by one or more of the professionals listed below.

Behavior Specialist Consultants (BSC)—Master’s or Doctoral level staff who assess and analyze behavioral data, develop child-specific treatment plans, and consult with the treatment team concerning the implementation of the treatment and behavioral plans.

Mobile Therapists (MT)—Master’s or Doctoral level staff who provide intensive individual or family therapy services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families in settings other than a provider agency or office, including the child’s home, school, church, community center, a neighbor or extended family member’s home, and other community settings. They provide child-centered, family-focused individual and family psychotherapy, as defined in the treatment plan and agreed upon by the therapist and family using formats that may vary according to the individualized needs of the child.

Psychotherapy in the home or community setting may include sessions with the child individually, the entire nuclear family, the family and a community resource (such as a minister, Scout Master, community leader, mentor), the family and teacher, guidance counselor, principal, or subsystems of any of the above, such as sibling groups, as clinically indicated, agreed upon, and identified in the treatment plan.



Autism has nothing whatsoever to do with the way parents bring up their children.

There isn't one specific cause of Autism. Research has focused on whether chemical imbalances, differences in the brain, genetics, or problems with the immune system play a role in causing the disorder.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS



A person with Autism can be educated. With the right structured support within and outside of school, individuals with Autism can be helped to reach their full potential.

Which types of professionals deliver BHRS services? (continued)

Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS)—A TSS worker provides direct services to a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder under the supervision of a Master’s level clinician (typically the BSC or MT). These staff members are educated at the Bachelor’s degree level and have at least one year of applicable experience in human service fields as providers of care. TSS workers implement interventions as defined in the treatment plan. Their role is to teach the interventions, skills, and techniques in the treatment plan to the adults in the child’s life so that at some point these natural supports will have the skills to manage the child’s behavioral needs. The other role of the TSS is to collect data to document the child’s progress on the treatment plan.

How do I get BHRS or wraparound services?

In order to obtain BHRS, you can have your child evaluated at one of the mental health providers in the county (**See Appendix I**). An evaluation will be offered within seven days of the initial phone call.

What will happen at an evaluation for BHRS?

Before the evaluation, a Master’s level clinician will ask you questions about your child’s developmental history and current and past behaviors, including definitions of the behaviors, the frequency and intensity of the behaviors, past medical history review of strengths, current school or preschool placement if relevant, drug and alcohol history if relevant, family psychiatric history, past treatment, and medical history. You should bring as much information as possible to this appointment.

The clinician will make a level of care determination for BHRS and/or another level of care that will address your child’s needs.