

Service Name	FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT (behavior identification assessment)
Setting	Outpatient services are rendered in a professional office, clinic, home or other environment appropriate to the provision of behavioral services.
Facility License	As required by Department of Public Health.
Basic Definition	A Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) refers to a range of strategies used in the process of determining why an individual engages in significant behavioral disruption and how the behavior relates to the environment. The focus of a FBA is on identifying significant, individual-specific factors associated with the occurrence (and non-occurrence) of specific behaviors. FBAs provide the practitioner with information necessary to develop a clinical formulation as to why the individual engages in the behavior, when the individual is most likely to demonstrate the behavior, and situations in which the behavior is most likely and least likely to occur. Generally, individuals with behavioral issues or functional impairments cannot adequately communicate why they are displaying particular behaviors or what they need to improve functional skills. By gathering data and conducting evaluations of environmental variables on the individual's behaviors, the assessor can decipher the meaning of a behavior, why it is occurring and help to design and recommend a program of behavioral intervention with the individual and their caregivers that can help the individual acquire needed skills and reduce problematic behaviors.
Service Expectations (basic expectations for more detail see Title 471 chapters 20 and 32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Initial Diagnostic Interview (IDI) must be completed first and must identify the need for the FBA. • The FBA must occur prior to the initiation of treatment interventions and must include reviewing situational variables, including environmental circumstances, individual caretaker management practices, physical health considerations, and academic and social demands. • Direct assessment and data analysis are required assessment techniques for this service and are defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct assessment – In-person observation and recording of situational factors and the individual's behaviors. ○ Data analysis – Comparison and analysis of collected data must be completed to determine whether or not there are patterns associated with the behavioral, emotional and mental health conditions of interest. • The FBA must describe the relationship between the significant behavioral disruption(s) and environmental, cognitive, and/or emotional variables that contribute to its occurrence. • The FBA must be conducted by a psychologist or other independent licensed and/or certified practitioner with specific training and expertise in conducting FBAs. • The FBA must identify strengths, problems and needs, develop goals and objectives, and determine appropriate strategies and methods of behavioral intervention for the individual. • The FBA must include, but is not limited to, the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reason for assessment/presenting issue; ○ Relevant bio-psychosocial and developmental information; ○ Relevant treatment history/response to treatment efforts; ○ Identification of the disruptive behavior; ○ Definition of the behavior in concrete terms; ○ Identification of the contextual factors that contribute to the disruptive behavior (including affective and cognitive factors); ○ Strengths and resources the individual and family have;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explanation of data collection methodology; in most cases a combination of natural observation across multiple settings, use of validated rating scales/ tools, parent/caregiver interviews, etc., will be used to ensure thorough assessment of problem behaviors; ○ Data and assessment summary to include: a description of problem behaviors; identification of antecedents, predictors, consequences and re-enforcers that maintain the behavior; clinical formulation regarding the general condition under which the disruptive behavior usually occurs and probable behavioral and social consequences that serve to maintain the disruptive behavior; and ○ Targeted behavior management plan including the targeted problematic behavior, positive and negative reinforcement findings, behavior replacement/modification interventions, plan monitoring, data collection, and review schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Documentation expectations include a typed report which includes the components listed above resulting in treatment recommendations. The report must be signed by all fully licensed clinicians who participated in the formation of the report, including the supervising practitioner, when applicable. ● The FBA must include collateral contact information (with appropriate signed releases) for significant others or family members to gather relevant information about individual and family functioning, and through collateral contacts with former and current healthcare providers, friends, and school officials to verify medical and functional history across environments. ● With appropriate releases of information, it is expected that this assessment will be shared with other professionals involved in the individual's assessment and treatment.
Length of Service	One assessment per year; one addendum to the assessment per 6 month period.
Staffing	<p>Each part of the FBA must be completed by a fully licensed clinician acting within his/her scope of practice who is enrolled with the Nebraska Division of Medicaid and Long-Term care as a provider of mental health services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Licensed and/or provisionally licensed Psychologists ● Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioners (LIMHP) with BCBA credentials. ● Doctoral and Masters Level Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), under the supervision of a licensed supervising practitioner, unless the BCBA is also a licensed mental health practitioner.
Staffing Ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MLTC regulations do not have specific criteria regarding staffing ratios. It is a provider's responsibility to ensure their facility meets any and all staffing ratio requirements as determined by the Division of Behavioral Health and/or the Division of Public Health.
Hours of Operation	May be available seven days a week with a minimum availability of five days a week including days, evenings and weekends.
Desired Individual Outcome	The therapists will determine the function of the maladaptive behavior and use the information from the assessment to design an effective treatment plan to teach the individual functional behaviors to replace the maladaptive behaviors. As a result, the individual will improve their ability to interact within the family, social, and educational constructs of their daily life.
Admission guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The FBA is necessary in order to identify and address problematic behaviors in the individual's functioning that are attributed to developmental, cognitive and/or communication impairments. ● The recommendation for the FBA is being made by a clinician (e.g. pediatrician or behavioral health professional) who has identified that the individual's clinical presentation and functional impairments need specialized behavioral assessment, treatment planning and interventions. ● Other assessments, such as an IDI, would be insufficient to fully identify the root cause of the problematic behaviors or to develop a thorough behavioral modification/behavior replacement plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The individual's maladaptive functioning requires assessment by a provider with specific expertise and training in behavioral assessment and modification therapies to develop appropriate treatment intervention strategies.• The individual presents with severe behaviors that cause significant impairments in all domains of the individual's life and, without specialized behaviorally-focused assessment and treatment to address, will likely lead to disrupted placement in his/her school and living environment.• The individual's clinical condition causes an absence in critical skills of self-care, social interaction and/or safety awareness, and the FBA is expected to identify those deficits and the treatment recommendations/interventions to support functional improvement and skill development.• The individual is authorized for medically necessary intensive and/or specialized treatment to address these significant behavior impairments and the FBA is necessary to inform treatment planning approaches.
Continued stay guidelines	NA