

Service Name	Applied Behavior Analysis Behavior Identification Assessment (Formerly Functional Behavioral Assessment)
Setting	<p>Applied Behavior Analysis behavior identification assessment (ABA assessment) can be provided in any of the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinic • Office • School • Community setting that is appropriate for the provision of services as determined by the clinician • Home
Licensure, Certification, or Accreditation	<p>If this service is provided by a Mental Health Substance Abuse Treatment Center, they must be licensed by the DHHS Division of Public Health and accredited by CARF, TJC, or COA, and accredited to provide the level of care applicable to this service as required by DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC)</p> <p>If this service is provided by a hospital, the hospital must be licensed by the DHHS Division of Public Health and accredited by TJC or AoA and must be accredited to provide the level of care applicable to this service as required by DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC)</p> <p>Individual providers must be licensed by the DHHS Division of Public Health as required by DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC)</p>
Basic Definition	<p>The ABA assessment is an assessment that identifies the reason for behaviors displayed by individuals with ASD or developmental or intellectual disabilities to develop effective treatment interventions.</p> <p>The ABA assessment identifies significant, individual-specific factors associated with the occurrence (and non-occurrence) of specific behaviors. The ABA assessment provides information on 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</p> <p>The goal of an ABA assessment is to determine an individual's baseline skills, develop treatment targets and goals, and identify measures to report progress. Assessments should be multi-method to provide a comprehensive view of the individual's functioning.</p>

<p>Service Expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Initial Diagnostic Interview (IDI) must be completed, if one has not been completed within the previous 12 months of the initial ABA assessment, prior to the initiation of treatment interventions. The IDI must establish the need for the initial ABA assessment. The IDI must meet the requirements as noted in the Initial Diagnostic Interview Medicaid Service Definition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If there has been a significant change to the individual’s clinical presentation within the previous 12 months of the initial ABA assessment, a licensed clinician who is able to diagnose and treat major mental illness within their scope of practice, must review the IDI to determine if the diagnosis and treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation plan are still applicable. If there is new information available, including changes in the treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation plan, an update to the IDI must be documented in the form of an IDI addendum. The IDI addendum must reflect the individual’s current functional status • The IDI must identify the need for the initial ABA assessment. • The initial ABA assessment must be completed prior to the initiation of treatment interventions. • The ABA Assessment must include the review of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reason for the assessment ○ Situational variables ○ Environmental circumstances ○ Individual caretaker management practices ○ Physical health considerations ○ Academic and social demands ○ Relevant bio-psychosocial and developmental information ○ Relevant treatment history and response to treatment efforts ○ Potential barriers to accessing or fully benefiting from care • The ABA assessment must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct observation in-person or via audiovisual telehealth, when appropriate ○ Recording of situational factors and the individual’s behaviors ○ Natural observation across multiple settings ○ Identification of the disruptive behavior ○ Identification of the contextual factors that contribute to the disruptive behavior, including affective and cognitive factors ○ Identification of the antecedents and consequences contributing to the identified behavior ○ Skills-based assessments ○ Standardized/norm-referenced assessments ○ Risk assessments as clinically indicated for individuals who display challenging behaviors and involve regular screening for the acuity of behaviors and determining the best safety protocols for the individual ○ Preference assessments to identify the best reinforcers to utilize during behavioral treatment to promote responses
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- Collection of information about individual and family functioning, to verify medical and functional history across environments, from (requires appropriate release of information):
 - Parent and primary caregiver interviews
 - Significant others or family members
 - Former and current healthcare providers,
 - Friends and school officials
- Data analysis:
 - Comparison and analysis of collected data to determine if there are patterns associated with the behavioral, emotional, and mental health conditions of concern
 - Review of the IDI and any other diagnostic assessments to identify other impacts to care. Review of the IDI is necessary to determine what diagnosis and psychosocial factors are impacting behaviors
- The ABA assessment report must include:
 - Definition and description of problem behaviors
 - Identified strengths, problems and needs of the individual
 - Identified strengths and resources of the family
 - Relationship between the significant behavioral disruption(s) and environmental, cognitive, or emotional variables that contribute to its occurrence
 - Identification of behavioral and social antecedents, predictors, consequences and reinforcers that maintain the behavior
 - Explanation of data collection methodology including use of validated rating scales and tools
 - Summary of the individual's baseline skills
 - Analysis of any barriers to the individual engaging in treatment
 - Summary of risky behaviors the individual engages in and proposed plan to reduce risk
 - Narrative summary of:
 - Quantitative results with interpretation
 - Case conceptualization, including proposed intensity and location of services
 - Targeted behavior management plan comprised of:
 - Goals and objectives
 - Appropriate strategies and interventions for behavior replacement and target behavior reduction
 - Treatment plan monitoring
 - The ABA assessment report must be signed by the licensed clinicians who participated in the development of the report, including the supervising practitioner, when applicable
 - With appropriate releases of information, the ABA assessment report can be shared with other treatment providers involved in the individual's assessment and treatment
- All services must meet the standards outlined in this document, and in the document titled *Medicaid Requirements for Substance Use Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis Services*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All services must be provided with cultural competence • Crisis assistance must be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If a provider is not able to provide access to crisis services, they may refer individuals to telephonic, text, and chat crisis intervention call centers that meet 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline standards for risk assessment and engagement of individuals at imminent risk of suicide. The resources provided and a plan for access must be included in the individual's Individualized Treatment, Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan.
<p>Length of Service</p>	<p>The initial ABA assessment (CPT 97151 with CPT 97152):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One initial assessment for the evaluation of a new patient • CPT 97152 may be performed in combination with CPT 97151 to supplement the ABA assessment • CPT 97152 may not be billed as a stand-alone service • The typical initial ABA assessment takes up to 12 hours. Additional hours may be requested in certain clinical circumstances for which clinical justification must be submitted for prior authorization and be approved <p>The ABA reassessment (CPT 97151 with CPT 97152):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABA reassessments may be performed at 6-month intervals • CPT 97152 may be performed in combination with CPT 97151 to supplement the ABA assessment • CPT 97152 may not be billed as a stand-alone service • The typical reassessment takes less than 12 hours to complete as it is an update to the initial ABA assessment. Additional hours may be requested in certain clinical circumstances for which clinical justification must be submitted for prior authorization and be approved • Additional brief ABA reassessments may be requested in particular circumstances where an individual's behavior is not responsive to treatment <p>The time to complete an ABA assessment will vary based on the intensity of the individual's behaviors. Direct ABA service hours provided to the individual may not exceed a total of 6 hours per day, except in certain clinical circumstances for which clinical justification must be submitted for prior authorization and be approved. The time requested must be commensurate with the assessments utilized</p>
<p>Staffing</p>	<p>The ABA assessment must be conducted by a licensed clinician with training and expertise in ABA</p> <p>Licensed Clinicians who can bill CPT 97151 may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatrist with training in ABA • Physician with training in ABA • Psychologist with training in ABA • Provisionally licensed psychologist with training in ABA • Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA)

	<p>As of 01/01/2025, all Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) must be licensed as a Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA), and all Board Certified assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBA) must be licensed as a Licensed assistant Behavior Analyst (LaBA) by the Nebraska Department of Public Health as required by Nebraska state law.</p> <p>Technicians who can bill CPT 97152 under the supervision of a licensed clinician may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed assistant Behavior Analyst (LaBA) • Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) <p>All staff must meet the qualifications and supervision requirements as defined in the document titled <i>Medicaid Requirements for Substance Use Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis Services</i></p> <p>All staff are required to work within their scope of practice to provide treatment</p>
Staffing Ratio	<p>It is a provider’s responsibility to ensure their services meet any and all staffing ratio requirements as determined by the Division of Behavioral Health, the Division of Public Health or relevant accrediting body. MLTC regulations do not have specific criteria regarding staffing ratios.</p> <p>An LBA may not supervise more than 24 technicians.</p>
Hours of Operation	<p>ABA services must be available during times that meet the needs of the individual and families being served, to include typical business hours with evening and weekend hours available by appointment</p>
Desired Individual Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABA assessment will evaluate the maladaptive behavior and be used to design an effective treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery plan to teach the individual functional behaviors to replace the maladaptive behaviors. With treatment the individual will improve their ability to interact within the family, social, and educational constructs of their daily life • The ABA assessment will establish baseline levels of social communication skills to design an effective treatment plan • The ABA assessment will identify potential risks and barriers to treatment and include plans to mitigate them
Admission Guidelines	<p>All of the following criteria must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual with ASD or developmental or intellectual disability • An IDI completed by a licensed clinician has identified the need for an ABA assessment to identify and address problematic behaviors in the individual’s functioning that are attributed to developmental, cognitive or communication impairments • The individual presents with severe behaviors that cause significant impairments of the individual’s life and, without specialized ABA

	<p>assessment and treatment, will likely lead to disrupted placement in their home, school and social environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABA assessment is necessary to inform intensive and specialized treatment planning to address significant behavior impairments
Continued Stay Guidelines	N/A
Telehealth	<p>Telehealth services are allowed as indicated on the Mental Health and Substance Use fee schedule. Telehealth services must be performed within ethical guidelines for each provider’s scope of practice and license.</p> <p>ABA Behavior Identification Assessment by the licensed clinician (CPT 97151) may be completed via audiovisual telehealth if the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers are available on-site during the ABA assessment in which the licensed clinician is assessing the individual using live, synchronous methods • The environment has been assessed and is safe or there are environmental modifications to ensure the safety of the individual and caregivers • Caregivers have access to technology and a secure internet connection • The individual’s behavior is not so severe as to need more than 1:1 support • There are documented plans in place to reduce or eliminate technology-related distractions • The individual has the basic prerequisite skills needed to attend to the telehealth evaluation, such as the ability to sit independently at a computer or tablet for 8-10 minutes, and challenging behaviors are low, or can be safely managed by the caregiver • Documentation that justifies the use of telehealth as necessary and formative for the ABA assessment, and not solely for the convenience of the provider or the caregiver <p>ABA Behavior Identification supporting assessment by the technician (CPT 97152) cannot be completed via telehealth</p>