

Service Name	Applied Behavior Analysis Behavior Identification Assessment (ABA Assessment)
Allowable Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Home • Office or clinic • School* <p><i>ABA Services in school settings: ABA services are covered as part of the Medicaid school-based services program, and are the responsibility of the school as outlined in Nebraska Administrative Code Title 471, Chapter 25 and the Medicaid State Plan. Independent providers may not bill Medicaid directly for services provided at a school. Services provided by the school must meet the requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis as outlined in this document.</i></p>
Billing Information	<p>Fee schedule codes for this service are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97153 - Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol Administered by Technician (per 15 minutes) • 97154 - Group Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol Administered by Technician (per 15 minutes) • 97155 - Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol Administered by Physician or Other Healthcare Professional (per 15 minutes) • 97156 - Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol Administered by Physician or Other Healthcare Professional, With or Without Patient Present, With Guardian or Caregiver (per 15 minutes) • 97158 - Adaptive Behavior Treatment Social Skills Group, Administered by Physician or Other Qualified Healthcare Professional with Multiple Patients (per 15 minutes) <p>For more detailed billing information, including current telehealth allowances, please refer to the Medicaid Mental Health and Substance Use Fee Schedule.</p>
Telehealth	<p>Telehealth allowances are outlined per CPT/HCPCS code in the Mental Health and Substance Use Fee Schedule</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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual has the basic prerequisite skills needed to attend 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> <p>Telehealth services, when allowed, must be provided in accordance with all applicable Medicaid requirements.</p>
<p>Licensure, Certification, or Accreditation</p>	<p>All providers subject to licensure must be appropriately licensed by the DHHS Division of Public Health as required by DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC) and the DHHS Division of Behavioral Health, and must maintain current licensure.</p> <p>All providers subject to certification must be appropriately certified by the DHHS Division of Public Health, the DHHS Division of Behavioral Health, or the appropriate certifying entity, and must maintain current certification.</p> <p>All providers billing Medicaid services must ensure that their staff meet the requirements outlined in this document.</p>
<p>Basic Definition</p>	<p>The ABA assessment utilizes multiple methods and input from various sources to ensure a thorough understanding of the patient's functioning at the start of treatment and throughout its progression. The purpose of these assessment activities is to establish the patient's baseline abilities, guide the development of individualized treatment plans and goals, and identify appropriate metrics for tracking progress throughout therapy</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 in 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 interventions with the individual and their caregivers who can help the individual acquire needed skills and reduce problematic behaviors</p>

<p>Admission Requirements</p>	<p>Age: 0-20</p> <p>All of the following criteria must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual must have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder 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 must present with severe behaviors that cause significant impairments of the individual’s life and, without specialized ABA assessment and treatment, will likely lead to disrupted placement in their home, school and social environment • The ABA assessment is necessary to inform intensive and specialized treatment planning to address significant behavior impairments <p><i>Individuals who are receiving waiver services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities may receive Applied Behavior Analysis Assessments (HCPCS codes 97151 and 97152), regardless of age. For waiver recipients only, the ABA assessment may be recommended and used for non-ABA related purposes. ABA assessments for waiver participants must meet all other requirements outlined in this document.</i></p>
<p>Service Expectations</p>	<p>Assessments</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 definition in this manual <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 professional competencies, 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:
 - 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:
 - 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 or criterion-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

- 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Diagnosis associated with the reason for seeking assessment○ 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Quantitative results with interpretation▪ Case conceptualization, including proposed intensity and location of services○ Targeted behavior management plan comprised of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Behavior reduction and/or acquisition procedures▪ Condition(s) under which behavior is to be demonstrated and mastery criteria▪ Date of introduction▪ Estimated date of mastery▪ Plan for generalization▪ For progress reports, statement as to whether goal or objective is met, not met, or modified (with explanation)▪ Treatment plan monitoring○ Parent and caregiver training, when deemed medically necessary and feasible, must include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clearly defined targets, goals, and objectives● Detailed training procedures with date of introduction and estimated date of mastery● Specified service units or hours requested for direct care, caregiver training, clinical oversight, and case supervision
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The treatment plan must justify medical necessity for each service component and include applicable CPT/HCPCS codes and modifiers. Coordination of care with other providers or services must be documented when relevant ○ 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
<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>Staffing Ratio</p>	<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>
<p>Hours of Operation</p>	<p>To ensure access for all individuals, providers should have the capacity to provide services during evening and weekend hours in addition to typical business hours.</p>

	Weekend and evening hours may be by appointment as appropriate for established clients if the provider is not typically open outside of business hours.
Continued Stay Requirements	N/A
Desired Individual Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ABA assessment will evaluate maladaptive behavior and be used to design an effective treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery plan to teach the individual functional behaviors to replace maladaptive behaviors.• 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