

To: Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Plans
From: Drew Gonshorowski, Director *DG*
Date: June 1, 2026
Re: Updated Service Definition and Changes to Billing and Utilization of Applied Behavior Analysis Services

This health plan advisory is being issued to clarify guidance on billing and utilization of applied behavior analysis (ABA) services, and to notify the Nebraska Medicaid managed care plans of changes to coverage requirements, **beginning July 1, 2026.**

ABA services provided in a school setting

ABA services are included in school-based services reimbursement, 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 service definition requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis defined by Medicaid and Long-Term Care.

More information about School-Based Services is available here: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Provider-School-Based-Services.aspx>

ABA services for individuals receiving services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities

The following coverage changes will apply to dates of service on and after July 1, 2026:

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. The ABA assessment must meet all other service definition requirements outlined by Medicaid and Long-Term Care for the ABA assessment.

ABA Updated Service Definitions

The 2026 updates to the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Medicaid Service Definitions (MSDs) for Nebraska Medicaid will be posted to the Medicaid and Long-Term Care website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Behavioral-Health-Definitions.aspx>. These service definitions are effective July 1, 2026.

Prior to this date, the draft service definitions are available to view here:

- [Applied Behavior Analysis](#)
- [Applied Behavior Analysis Behavior Identification Assessment](#)

We want to sincerely thank all the providers who submitted feedback on the draft versions of these definitions during the open provider review and feedback period. All comments were carefully reviewed and used to inform changes and clarifications in the final service definitions.

Resources

School-Based Services - NAC title 471, Chapter 25:

<https://rules.nebraska.gov/rules?agencyId=37&titleId=226>

Nebraska Medicaid State Plan:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/Medicaid%20State%20Plan%20Part%202.pdf>

Nebraska Medicaid Service Definitions:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Behavioral%20Health%20Service%20Definitions/Medicaid%20Requirements%20for%20Substance%20Use%20Disorder%20and%20Applied%20Behavior%20Analysis%20Services.pdf>

If you have questions regarding this advisory, please contact DHHS.MedicaidMHSU@nebraska.gov. Health plans should also copy their contract manager.

Health Plan Advisories, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Heritage-Health-Plan-Advisories.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Health Plan Advisories.