

**NOTIFICATION****IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis and Treatment****July 2, 2009**

Dear Healthcare Practitioners and Providers:

Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian) are committed to ensuring that our practitioners and providers are kept apprised of changes that affect the way health care is administered, and changes in the benefits that members are offered. As a result of the last legislative session, and the passage of Senate Bill 39, a new commercial benefit mandate has passed related to coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder. The new benefit impacts Commercial fully-insured plans. See additional information about plans affected below. Endorsements are being sent to those members whose plans will now have this benefit.

The coverage for this benefit is defined as follows:

Coverage will be provided to covered individuals who are nineteen (19) years of age or younger, or an eligible individual who is twenty-two (22) years of age or younger and is enrolled in high school, for:

1. Well-baby and well-child screening for diagnosing the presence of autism spectrum disorder; and
2. Treatment of autism spectrum disorder through speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA).

Coverage shall be limited to:

- Treatment that is prescribed by the insured's treating physician in accordance with a treatment plan
- \$36,000.00 annually and shall not exceed \$200,000.00 in total lifetime benefits.

**Effective Date:**

Presbyterian will include the new benefit to the impacted plans July 1, 2009.

**Practitioners/Providers recognized in our network/plan benefits as providing this service.**

Speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and qualified behavioral health providers.

To view a list of practitioners/providers providing treatment services for this benefit, visit our Providers Web page on our website, [www.phs.org](http://www.phs.org), or use the link below.<http://www.phs.org/PHS/healthplans/providers/index.htm>**Benefit Certification Requirements:**

CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) code 90808 will require a Benefit Certification.

**Billing Information:**

If a member is seen for the treatment of autism, please ensure that the autism diagnosis code is placed on the first line where diagnosis codes are reported on the claim form. Also, the procedure code for that treatment should be placed on the first service line of the claim form.

**Plans affected:**

All Commercial (Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc.) HMO, PPO, POS, and Indemnity Plans (except those noted below under “Plans that are NOT affected”).

ASO Plan – University of New Mexico (UNM) Medical Plan.

**Plans that are NOT affected:**

Allianz

CHIP

Minimum Health Care Protection Plan or other limited benefit plans

Federal Employee Plan

PHS Discount Card

ASO plans (except UNM Medical Plan)

SCI

Medicare

Medicaid/Salud

Please feel free to contact me by telephone, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by e-mail with any questions you may have. As always, thank you for partnering with us to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities.

Sincerely,



Mark Sanchez

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