Getting ABA Therapy Through Florida Medicaid

A step-by-step guide for families · Guía paso a paso para familias

If your child has autism and Florida Medicaid, ABA therapy is a covered benefit — in most cases at no cost to your family. This guide walks you through each step and what to expect.

STEP 1 · Get the diagnosis documented

Medicaid requires a written diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder from a developmental pediatrician, psychologist, psychiatrist or neurologist. A school evaluation or IEP is helpful supporting evidence but does not replace a medical diagnosis.

STEP 2 · Ask your pediatrician for a prescription

You need a prescription or order for ABA therapy that lists the autism diagnosis (ICD-10 F84.0). This is usually a short visit. If your pediatrician is not familiar with the process, we can send them the exact wording Medicaid expects.

STEP 3 · Choose an approved provider

The provider must be enrolled with Florida Medicaid. American Institute of Mental Health is an approved provider, so eligible children begin with no out-of-pocket therapy cost. We verify eligibility for free.

STEP 4 · Assessment with a BCBA (1–3 hours)

A Board Certified Behavior Analyst observes your child, interviews you and uses standardized tools such as VB-MAPP or ABLLS-R. The result is a written treatment plan with measurable goals and recommended weekly hours.

STEP 5 · Prior authorization (usually a few weeks)

We submit the assessment and plan to Medicaid. This is the longest step and depends on the payer. Our billing team follows up so you do not have to.

STEP 6 · Therapy begins

A Registered Behavior Technician works one-on-one with your child under BCBA supervision — at home, at school, in the community or by telehealth. Parent training is part of the program.

Documents checklist

- Medicaid card or member ID
- Prescription with the autism diagnosis

- Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation (CDE), if you have one
- Letter of medical necessity
- IEP, if your child attends public school and has one
- Any previous evaluations or therapy reports

Missing something? Contact us anyway — helping you gather the rest is part of our job.

Frequently asked

Does Medicaid really cover ABA in Florida? Yes, for children with an autism diagnosis and documented medical necessity.

How many hours will my child get? It depends on the assessment — from a few hours a week to 30+ for intensive early intervention.

What if I do not have Medicaid yet? You can apply through Florida's ACCESS system. We also offer private pay with flexible plans.

Do I need a referral from the school? No. School services and ABA are separate; the school does not decide medical necessity.

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This guide is general information, not legal or medical advice. Coverage depends on your specific plan and your child's documented needs.