

**75-6524. Autism coverage; time limit.** (a) In the coverage for the next health plan coverage year commencing on January 1, 2011, the state employees health care commission shall provide for the coverage of services for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder in any covered individual whose age is less than 19 years. Such coverage shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) Such coverage shall be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the autism services provider and the patient. Services provided by an autism services provider under this section shall include applied behavioral analysis when required by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist or licensed specialist clinical social worker but otherwise shall be limited to those services prescribed or ordered by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist or licensed specialist clinical social worker. Services provided pursuant to this paragraph shall be those services which are or have been recognized by peer reviewed literature as providing medical benefit to the patient based upon the patient's particular autism spectrum disorder.

(2) Such coverage may be subject to appropriate annual deductibles and coinsurance provisions as are consistent with those established for other physical illness benefits under the state employees health plan.

(3) Coverage for benefits for any covered person diagnosed with one or more autism spectrum disorders and whose age is between birth and less than seven years shall not exceed \$36,000 per year.

(4) Coverage for benefits for any covered person diagnosed with one or more autism spectrum disorders and whose age is at least seven years and less than 19 years shall not exceed \$27,000 per year.

(5) Coverages required under paragraphs (3) and (4) shall be subject to the same copays, deductibles and dollar limits as benefits for physical illness; and such other utilization or benefit limits as the state employees health care commission may determine.

(6) Reimbursement shall be allowed only for services provided by a provider licensed, trained and qualified to provide such services or by an autism specialist or an intensive individual service provider as such terms are defined by the department of social and rehabilitation services Kansas autism waiver as it exists on July 1, 2010.

(7) Any insurer or other entity which administers claims for services provided for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder under this section, and amendments thereto, shall have the right and obligation to:

(A) Review utilization of such services; and

(B) deny any claim for services based upon medical necessity or a determination that the covered individual has reached the maximum medical improvement for the covered individual's autism spectrum disorder.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.

(2) "Autism spectrum disorder" means the following disorders within the autism spectrum: Autistic disorder, Asperger's syndrome and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, as such terms are specified in the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, fourth edition, text revision (DSM-IV-TR), of the American psychiatric association, as published in May, 2000, or later versions as established in rules and regulations adopted by the behavioral sciences regulatory board pursuant to K.S.A. 74-7507, and amendments thereto.

(3) "Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder" means any medically necessary assessment, evaluation or test to determine whether an individual has an autism spectrum disorder.

(c) (1) Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 40-2249a, and amendments thereto, on or before March 1, 2012, the state employees health care commission shall submit to the president of the senate and to the speaker of the house of representatives, a report including the following information pertaining to the mandated coverage for autism spectrum disorder provided during the plan year commencing on January 1, 2011, and ending on December 31, 2011:

(A) The impact that the mandated coverage for autism spectrum disorder required by subsection (a) has had on the state health care benefits program;

(B) data on the utilization of coverage for autism spectrum disorder by covered individuals and the cost of providing such coverage for autism spectrum disorder; and

(C) a recommendation whether such mandated coverage for autism spectrum disorder should continue for the state health care benefits program or whether additional utilization and cost data is required.

(2) At the next legislative session following receipt of the report required in paragraph (1), the legislature may consider whether or not to require the coverage for autism spectrum disorder required by subsection (a) to be included in any individual or group health insurance policy, medical service plan, contract, hospital service corporation contract, hospital and medical service corporation contract, fraternal benefit society or health maintenance organization which provides coverage for accident and health services and which is delivered, issued for delivery, amended or renewed in this state on or after July 1, 2013.

**History:** L. 2010, ch. 120, § 1; July 1.