



The Power of Connection



ABA and Medicaid Knowing Your Rights: Part 1

New Jersey State Bar Foundation

Co-Sponsorship Program

Jon Gottlieb, Esq.
Director of Information Services



800.4.AUTISM
Helpline

Policy Agenda



Information Services

Education & Training

Public Policy

Awareness

Clinical Expertise and
Annual Conference

Ambassador
Program

The Power of Connection



Wow, this stuff sure is confusing.

- How are we feeling?
- Who is the expert here?



Who are we talking about?

Fatima

- 7 years old
- Toilet training
- Non-verbal



Bruce

- 5 years old
- Struggles socially
- Difficulties with transitions



Sean

- 16 years old
- Aggression
- Self-injurious behavior
- Family in crisis



All eligible for Medicaid





Agenda

- How to enroll in Medicaid
- NJ FamilyCare: Who is who?
- Medicaid legal framework
- Medicaid's EPSDT benefit
- Coverage advocacy



Struggle to get ABA therapy

Webinar 1:

- Medicaid coverage/eligibility
- No documented diagnosis
- Not a covered benefit

Webinar 2:

- No provider availability
- Medical necessity challenges



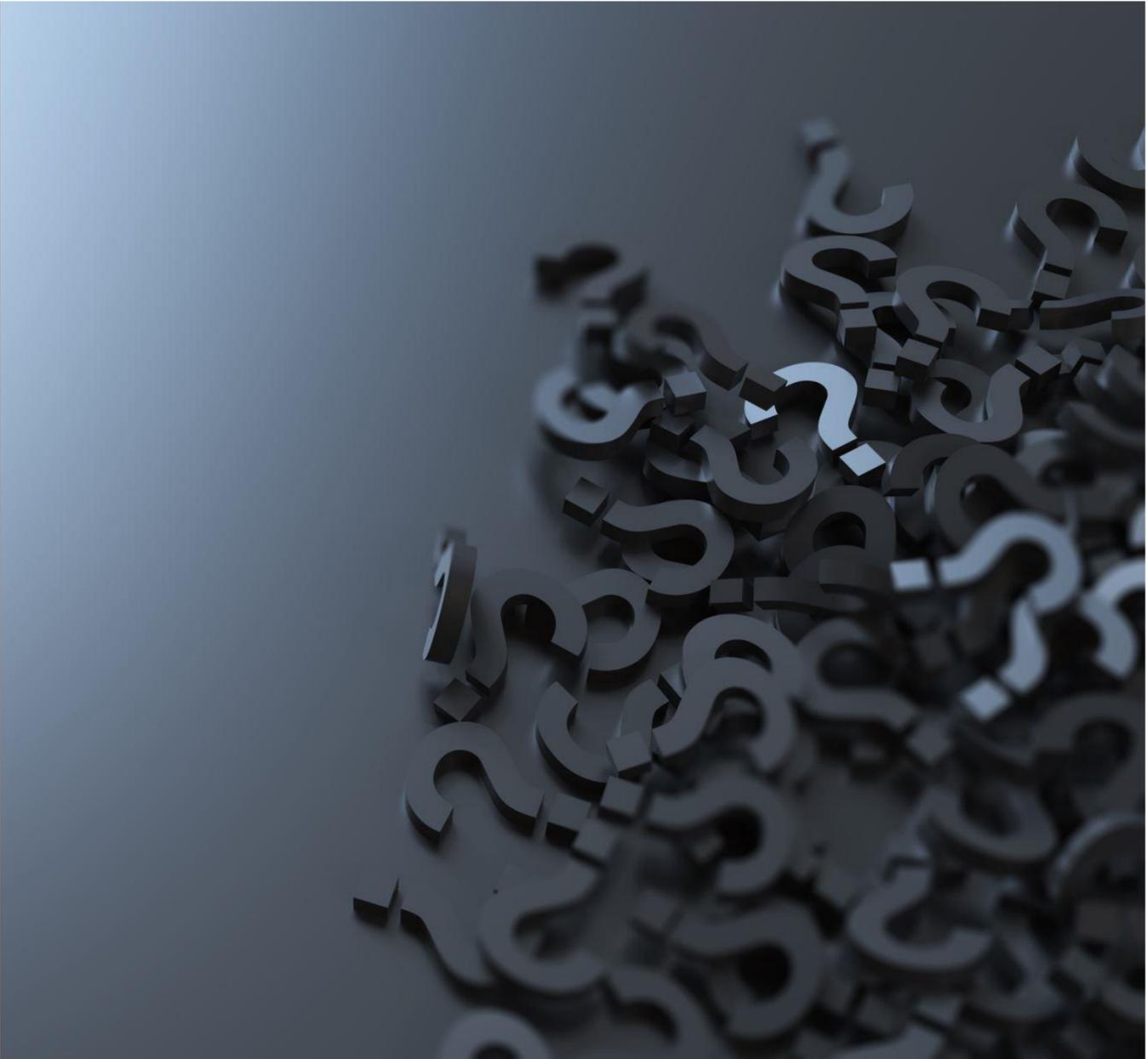


Getting Enrolled: Who Is Eligible?

Children 18 and under – family income eligibility

No waiver of means-test due to disability

Cover All Kids





Commercial Insurance?

- No problem
- Families can still get NJ FamilyCare if they have another source of health insurance



How to Enroll?

Three Methods of Enrollment

Online

<https://njfc.force.com/familycare/quickstart>

Apply in person: find an office near you

- NJ FamilyCare Regional Offices
- MACC Offices

Apply by phone

800.701.0710



New Jersey Medicaid in Action

Who's who?

BCBAs, RBTs

Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)

Behavior Analyst Licensing Act

Board Certified
Behavior Analyst –
Doctoral
(BCBA-D)

Board Certified
Assistant Behavior
Analyst
(BCaBA)

Board Certified
Behavior Analyst
(BCBA)

Registered Behavior
Technician (RBT)



New Jersey Medicaid in Action

Who's who?

Managed Care Organizations

Once determined eligible for NJ FamilyCare, enrollees must choose a managed care organization (MCO) or Health Plan to provide health coverage services.





New Jersey Medicaid in Action

Who's who?

**Qualified Healthcare Professional
(QHP)**

Insurance term

Distinction: Qualified Health Plan - the Affordable Care Act, defines QHP as an insurance plan that is certified by the Health Insurance Marketplace

Diagnosing QHP



Treating QHP





Medicaid Overview

Social Security Act (SSA) – Created Medicaid

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)

- First introduced in 1968 amendment to SSA
- Expanded in 1989 amendment to SSA

Medicaid covers:

- Medically necessary ABA, OT, PT, Speech Therapy, Diagnostic Evaluations for individuals 0-21



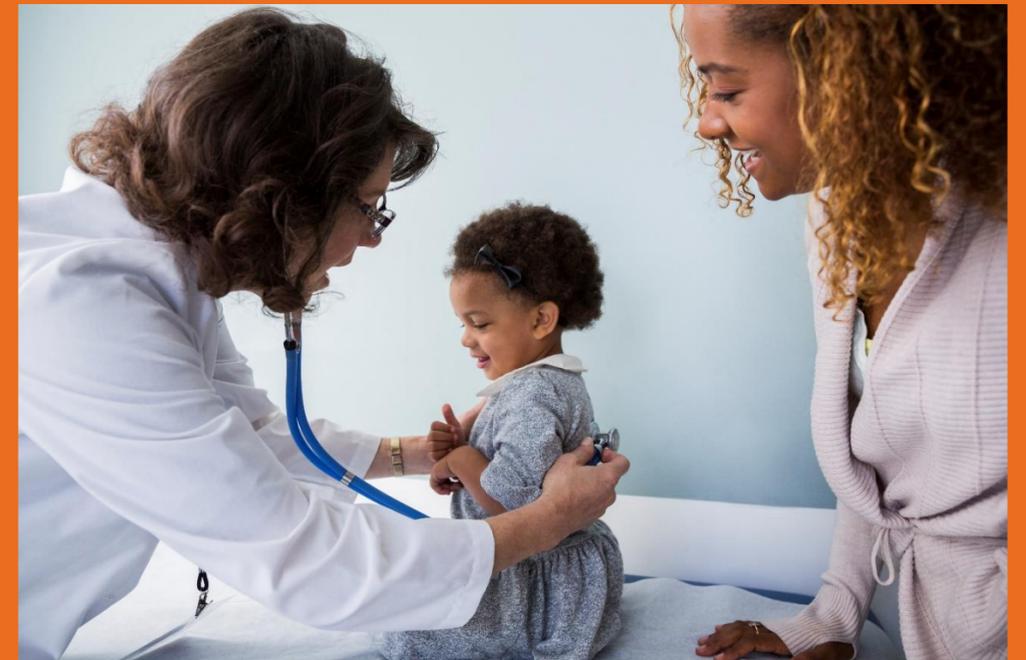
Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Benefit

Purpose

Find health and developmental problems early

Prevent issues and reduce effects

Decrease overall cost of treatment





Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Benefit

Scope

Physical and mental health

Hearing and vision

Dental health

Immunizations

More...





Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Benefit

Application to autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

[2014 CMS Bulletin:](#)

“states are required to arrange for and cover for individuals eligible for the EPSDT benefit any Medicaid coverable service listed in section 1905(a) of the [Social Security] Act that is determined to be medically necessary to correct or ameliorate any physical or behavioral conditions.”



Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Benefit

New Jersey Roll Out

April 1, 2020

- 50% of the state's children covered by Medicaid
- Enormous impact on low-income families
- Some challenges; positive trends





Bottom Line on EPSDT benefit for ASD

Right to Medicaid coverage of medically necessary autism interventions for children under 21 years of age. Includes:

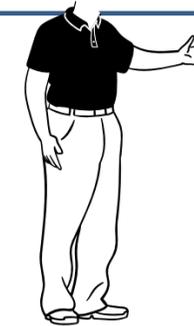
- ABA therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Diagnostic evaluations



Putting It Together

- Enroll
- Diagnosis
- Find a service provider
- Start treatment

Diagnosing QHP



Treating QHP



**Through it all,
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**



Have questions?

<https://autismnj.org/information-services/helpline/>



Articles

Helpline

Publications

Referrals



Want more information?

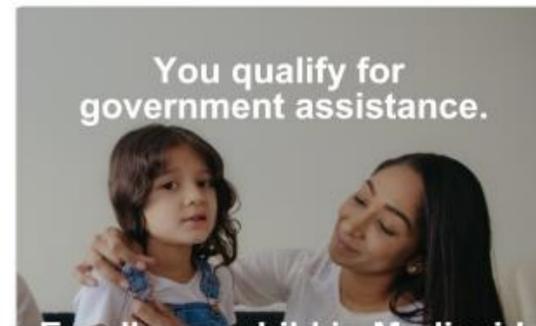
<https://autismnj.org/insurance-hub/>

The screenshot shows the Autism New Jersey website. The top navigation bar includes links for "Find a Referral", "Events", "About Us", "Search", "800.4.AUTISM", and a "DONATE" button. Below this is a secondary menu with "Understanding Autism", "Information Services", "Education & Training", "Public Policy", "Awareness", and "Connect". A dropdown menu is open under "Information Services", listing "Helpline", "Find a Referral", "Articles", "Age-Related Concerns", "Insurance Hub" (circled in red), "Publications", and "Government Agencies". The main content area features the Autism New Jersey logo, the headline "The Power of Connection", and the text "Together, we help those with autism connect to necessary resources and achieve their full potential." Below this are buttons for "ANNUAL CONFERENCE" and "DONATE". The background of the main content area is a photograph of a smiling young girl.



Medicaid

Many families get their health coverage through Medicaid. Learn who is eligible, how to apply, and how to deal with obstacles when they arise.



2023 | INSURANCE | MEDICAID

Medicaid and How To Enroll

This article will help you understand who is eligible for New Jersey Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare and how to apply.

[Read More](#)



2021 | INSURANCE | MEDICAID

Medicaid: Starting Treatment

Medicaid now covers ABA for autism!
Learn how to access this benefit.

[Read More](#)



2019 | INSURANCE | MEDICAID

Understanding the EPSDT Medicaid Benefit

EPSDT was created to ensure that potential health and developmental problems can be found early and addressed thoroughly.

[Read More](#)





Contact Your MCO

Member Services Department

Aetna

Loise Waigwa
WaigwaL@aetna.com
609.282.8214

Member Services
855.232.3596

Amerigroup

Member Services
800.600.4441

Horizon NJ Health

Member Services
800.682.9090

United Healthcare Community Plan

NJ DD dedicated line
877.370.5374

Member Services
800.941.4647

WellCare

Kim Brown-Jones
Kimya.Brown@wellcare.com
O: 973.274.2141 | C: 862.229.4132

Noralisa Santiago
Noralisa.Santiago@wellcare.com
O: 973.274.2166 | C: 862.240.2495

Customer Service
888.453.2534



Still not getting what you need? Keep at it.

Yes, it's an entitlement, but persistence is key.

- Call the MCO: only in-network coverage available
- Explain what you need
 - ABA therapy provided by an in-network behavior analyst
- Get a list of behavior analysts, call them, and stay organized



We know this isn't easy. We can help.

800.4.AUTISM
Information@autismnj.org



Autism™
NEW JERSEY

The Power of Connection

800.4.AUTISM

| www.autismnj.org