 KMTSJ, Inc.	DEPARTMENT:	Utilization Management
	SUBJECT:	Autism Spectrum Disorders
	PRODUCT LINE:	All
	POLICY NUMBER:	003
	ORIGINAL POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE:	01/26/10
	LAST REVISED DATE:	5/7/2023
	LAST REVIEWED DATE:	5/7/2023

POLICY: It is the policy of Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire (GHC) to consistently and correctly administer autism spectrum disorder benefits to all members according to their policy specifics and evidence-based medical criteria.

PROCEDURE: Prior Authorization: No

COMMERCIAL


Prior authorization is **not** required but there are benefit limitations per the Autism Emergency Rule/Wis.Stat.632.895(12): Insurers and self-insured health plans shall provide coverage for services to an insured that has a primary verified diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder when made by a provider skilled in testing and in the use of empirically validated tools specific for autism spectrum disorders.

1. Intensive Level Treatment – Evidence-based behavioral therapy that is designed to help an individual with autism spectrum disorder overcome the cognitive, social, and behavioral deficits associated with that disorder.
 - Maximum \$70,270 benefit per plan year
2. Non-intensive Level Treatment - Evidence-based behavioral therapy that occurs after the completion of treatment with intensive-level services and that is designed to sustain and maximize gains made during treatment with intensive-level services or, for an individual who has not and will not receive intensive-level services, evidence-based therapy that will improve the individual's condition.
 - Maximum \$35,134 benefit per plan year

To help members coordinate care for autism services before their benefit is exhausted, claims monitors claims for these services and when members are reaching their benefit maximums, a letter will be sent to notify them of their current benefit, the benefit limit, and other resources available to them to manage autism.

Non-covered services for autism treatment because studies have not shown these treatments to be beneficial:

- Acupuncture
- Animal-based therapy including hippotherapy
- Auditory integration training
- Chelation therapy
- Childcare fees

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- Craniosacral therapy
- Custodial or respite care
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Special diets or supplements
- Therapy, treatment, or services provided when member is residing in a residential treatment center, inpatient treatment, or day treatment facility.
- Facility fees when treatment, therapy, or services are provided outside a member's home.


MEDICAID Behavioral therapy for autism is available for members but is covered by Fee-for-Service Medicaid

Non-covered services for autism treatment:

- Acupuncture
- Animal-based therapy including hippotherapy
- Auditory integration training
- Chelation therapy
- Childcare fees
- Craniosacral therapy
- Custodial or respite care
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Special diets or supplements
- Therapy, treatment, or services provided when member is residing in a residential treatment center, inpatient treatment, or day treatment facility.
- Facility fees when treatment, therapy, or services are provided outside a member's home.

Associated codes: F84 Pervasive developmental disorders, including:

- F84.0 Autistic disorder
- F84.1 Atypical autism
- F84.5 Asperger syndrome
- F84.8 Other pervasive developmental disorder
- F84.9 Pervasive developmental disorder, unspecified

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APPROVED: _____ *Michele Bauer MD.* _____ DATE: 5/7/2023

REVISION HISTORY:

Rev. Date	Revised By/Title	Summary of Revision
02/18/2013	Carol E. Ebel RN, HM Mgr	Updated per OCI dollar limits
02/15/2014	Lynne Komanec, RN HM Manager	Reviewed with no changes
01/23/2015	Betsy Kelly, RN	Removed Core Plan references.
2/11/16	Betsy Kelly, RN	Removed auth requirement for Commercial/SOW
04/25/2017	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reformatted and updated auth.
9/22/2017	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Updated intensive and non-intensive level treatment benefit for 2017 plan year. Removed current Medicaid bullet points and added behavioral therapy for autism covered by FFS Medicaid.
05/06/2019	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Updated dollar limits and criteria
5/15/2020	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No changes.
3/10/2021	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No changes.
2/1/2022	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No changes.
5/5/2022	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Added process for notifying members of benefit exhaustion and benefit maximums.
5/7/2023	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Updated benefit maximum amounts