



NC Department of Health and Human Services

# Research Based - Behavioral Health Treatment (RB-BHT)

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# Today's Webinar



A overview of Research  
Based- Behavioral Health  
Treatment Services



Research Based-  
Behavioral Health  
Treatment Policy  
Updates

# **A Review of Research Based Behavioral Health Treatment**

# What is Research Based- Behavioral Health Treatment-BHT?

- Researched-Based Behavioral Intervention services:
- prevent or minimize the disabilities and behavioral challenges associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- promote, to the extent practicable, the adaptive functioning of a beneficiary.
- demonstrate clinical efficacy in treating ASD,
- prevent or minimizes the adverse effects of ASD
- promote, to the maximum extent possible, the functioning of a beneficiary.

# RB-BHT and the Medicaid State Plan

## 13. c. Preventive Services under Diagnostic, Screening, Treatment, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services

“Preventive services” are:

- Services recommended by a physician or
- other licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of authorized practice under State law to -
  - (1) Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression;
  - (2) Prolong life; and
  - (3) Promote physical and mental health and efficiency

# RB-BHT and the Medicaid State Plan


In accordance with 42 CFR 440.130(c), RB-BHT services are covered as:

- Diagnostic
- Screening
- Preventive
- Rehabilitative

# Research Based- Behavioral Health Treatment Policy Updates

# RB-BHT Policy Update: Eligibility of 21 years of age and older

Medicaid shall cover RB-BHT services for beneficiaries 21 years of age and older diagnosed with ASD utilizing a scientifically validated diagnostic tool, or tools, for diagnosis of ASD



For Individuals, 21 years of age and older, the intervention provided must be supported by credible scientific or clinical evidence, as appropriate for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the individual's age range.



# RB-BHT Policy Update: Service Codes (Concurrent billing)

Is concurrent billing of 97153 and 97155 allowed?

## 97153

Allows face-to-face with one patient, administered by a technician under the direction of a Qualified health care professional

## 97155

Allows protocol modification by a Qualified health care professional, which may include simultaneous direction of technician, face- to face with one patient

# RB-BHT Policy Update: Service Codes 97156

Can a Caregiver be trained in interventions?

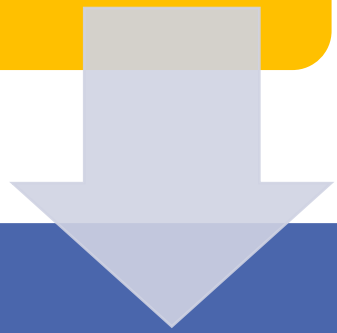
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graph TD; A[Can a Caregiver be trained in interventions?] --> B[97156: Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment guidance]; B --> C[Allows face-to-face with guardian(s)/Caregiver(s), administered by a qualified Health care professional (with or without the patient present)];
```

97156: Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment guidance

Allows face-to-face with guardian(s)/Caregiver(s), administered by a qualified Health care professional (with or without the patient present)

# RB-BHT Policy Update: Service Codes: MUE's

Can MUE's be adjusted?



Medically Unlikely Edits  
(MUE) are intended to  
prevent improper payments  
when services are reported  
with incorrect units

# RB-BHT Policy Update: Service Codes (Out of Home Placements)

Can services be provided in an ICF or TFC?

- RB-BHT services cannot be provided in intermediated Care facility for Individuals with Disabilities an (IFC-IID)

RB-BHT Services can provided in Therapeutic Foster homes

# RB-BHT Policy Update: Telehealth

What is Telehealth and how does it work?

Telehealth is the use of two-way real-time interactive audio and video

Telehealth can also be referred to as virtual visits, video visits and/or virtual care

# RB-BHT Policy Update: Telehealth

**TABLE 10. RESEARCH-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (RB-BHT) TREATMENT FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)**

SERVICE	APPLICABLE PROVIDERS	RATE CODE OR PROCEDURE	MODIFIERS & POS	SOURCE BULLETIN
RB-BHT for ASD	<p>Licensed Qualified Autism Service Providers (LQASP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmental or behavioral pediatricians</li> <li>• Licensed clinical social workers</li> <li>• Licensed clinical mental health counselors (formerly licensed professional counselors)</li> <li>• Licensed marriage and family therapists</li> <li>• Licensed psychologists</li> <li>• Licensed psychological assistants</li> <li>• Occupational therapists</li> <li>• Physicians</li> <li>• Speech and language pathologists</li> </ul> <p>Providers of Research Based - Behavioral Health Treatment when those services are delivered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified – qualified professional or</li> <li>• Technician under the supervision of a LQASP</li> </ul>	<p><b>97151</b>, 97152, 97153, 97154, 97155*, 97156<sup>p</sup>, 97157<sup>p</sup></p> <p>*In administering 97155, the physician or other qualified health care professional resolves one or more problems with the protocol and may simultaneously direct a technician in administering the modified protocol while the patient is present. Physician or other qualified health care professional <small>RB-BHT Policy Update: EPDST</small> direction to the technician without the patient present is not reported separately.</p> <p><sup>p</sup> If two-way audio-visual options are not accessible to the beneficiary, services may be offered via telephonic modality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported with usual place of service (POS)</li> <li>• Modifiers GT &amp; CR <sup>p</sup>Modifier CR only</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Special Bulletin COVID-19 #34: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Definitions, Eligible Providers, Services and Codes</a></p> <p><a href="#">Special Bulletin COVID-19 #59: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications - Outpatient Behavioral Health Services</a></p>

# RB-BHT Policy Update: BCBA Taxonomy

- Recent NC legislation changes allows for the Licensing of Behavioral Health Analyst
- NC Medicaid is currently collaborating with the Behavioral Analyst Board to ensure timely access to allow billing of BCBA Taxonomies

# RB-BHT Policy Update: EPDST

97151	1 unit=each 15-minute increment Behavior Identification assessment, data analyzation, and Treatment Plan Development
97152	1 unit= each 15-minute increment Behavior Identification –supporting assessment
97153	1 unit=each 15-minute increment Adaptive Behavior Treatment-This describes face –to-face services
97154	1 unit=each 15-minute increment Adaptive Behavior Treatment- This describes face-to-face services with two or more beneficiary
97155	1 unit=each 15-minute increment Adaptive Behavior Treatment with Protocol modification. This includes face-to-face with beneficiary.
97156	1 unit=each 15-minute increment Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment Guidance
97157	1 unit=each 15-minute increment Multiple Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment Guidance



# RB-BHT Update: Communication with NC Medicaid

[Medicaid.providerombudsman@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Medicaid.providerombudsman@dhhs.nc.gov)

# Questions

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# RB-BHT Update: Resource page

[CMS Caregiver Definition](#)

[Clinical Coverage Policy 8F](#)

[Clinical Coverage Policy 1H-Telehealth virtual Communication and remote Patient Monitoring](#)

[NC Juvenile Code Caretaker Definition](#)

# RB-BHT Update: Resource Page

[National Corrective Coding Initiatives](#)

[NC Medicaid National Corrective Coding Initiative Reminder](#)

[NC Telehealth Fact Sheet](#)

[North Carolina Telehealth Playbook](#)

# RB-BHT Update: Resource Page

[NC Behavior Analyst Licensure Law](#)

[NC Medicaid Telehealth Billing Code Summary](#)

[State Plan Amendment 21-0023 \( Approved RB-BHT Amendment to add Individuals over the age of 21\)](#)