



Coverage of Autism Spectrum Disorder Treatment Services by Wisconsin's Medicaid Program

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
Division of Long Term Care
Autism Society of Wisconsin Annual Conference

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Presentation Purpose

Provide overview of upcoming changes to coverage of Medicaid-funded autism spectrum disorder (ASD) treatment services.

- Reason for changes
- Tentative timeline
- Upcoming opportunities to provide comment and input
- How to get updates from the Department of Health Services about these changes

Note: This information contained in this presentation is current as of May 2, 2015, and is subject to change.



History of ASD Treatment in Wisconsin

- Wisconsin was a national leader in covering ASD treatment services as a regular Medicaid benefit beginning in 1994.
- Wisconsin and the federal government engaged in discussions between 2000 and 2003 regarding whether ASD treatment was a coverable service as a regular Medicaid benefit.
- In 2003, the federal government prohibited Wisconsin from covering ASD treatment as a regular Medicaid benefit.
- In 2003, Wisconsin obtained special permission from the federal government to cover ASD treatment and additional services for a limited number of people through the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waivers.



Why Are Changes Being Made?

- In July 2014, the federal government issued guidance requiring states to provide ASD treatment as a regular statewide Medicaid benefit for Medicaid-eligible children.
- All state Medicaid agencies are reviewing the options the federal government identified for covering ASD treatment and developing policies.
- In the future, Medicaid ASD treatment services will be funded as a regular Medicaid benefit – like a physician service or a well-child screening- instead of through the CLTS Waivers.
- Wisconsin’s changes will increase the availability and comprehensiveness of ASD treatment services available through Medicaid.



What Is Not Changing?

- CLTS Waivers will continue to provide an array of supports and services to meet children's assessed needs.
- Medicaid eligibility is not changing.



The Department's Commitment

- The Department is committed to continuing to support families of children with ASD, county waiver agencies and providers to ensure high-quality, individualized treatment services are available to children with ASD.
- The Department is committed to continuing to provide coverage of ASD treatment services through Wisconsin's Medicaid program.



The Department's Commitment

Wisconsin's ASD treatment goals include:

- Providing treatment services that meet the needs of the child by teaching new skills while decreasing challenging behaviors seen in some children with ASD.
- Reducing the child's future long-term needs by making significant gains toward typical development, including increased social, behavioral and communication skills.



The Department's Guiding Principles

The Department has developed the following guiding principles to direct our work related to ASD treatment services and coverage of this health care benefit:

- Plan and provide treatment services based on the member's individual needs.
- Provide coverage for safe, high-quality, evidence-based ASD treatment services that are based on medical necessity.
- Increase the availability and comprehensiveness of ASD treatment services available through Medicaid.
- Structure coverage policy to meet federal and state statutory requirements.



The Department's Guiding Principles

- Coordinate services covered by BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; or the Katie Beckett Program and the CLTS Waivers.
- Make the transition from CLTS Waivers-funded ASD treatment to ASD treatment services through BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; or the Katie Beckett Program as seamless as possible and to minimize disruption of treatment-in-progress.
- Collaborate with stakeholders involved with ASD treatment.



Who Will These Changes Affect?

- Wisconsin children who receive health care coverage through BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; or the Katie Beckett Program and who have an ASD
- Wisconsin children who are currently receiving ASD treatment services funded under the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waivers or who are on the waiting list for ASD treatment services



What Is Changing?

- In the future, coverage of Medicaid-funded ASD treatment services will be provided through BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; or the Katie Beckett Program instead of through the CLTS Waivers.
- Wisconsin's changes will increase the availability and comprehensiveness of ASD treatment services available through Medicaid.



What Is Changing?

- Members will show their ForwardHealth Card when getting ASD treatment services, like they do when receiving other health care services.





What Is Changing?

- The Department is still working on the details about these changes and what they mean for counties, parents, children receiving ASD treatment services, and providers.
- As it is available, information will be posted to the Department's website at dhs.wi.gov/clts/waiver/autism/updates.htm



The Department's Next Steps

The Department is currently:

- Designing the ASD treatment services benefit that will be available through BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; or the Katie Beckett Program.
- Determining how each child's ASD treatment services will be coordinated and managed.
- Determining any changes to the CLTS Waivers that are needed to align with and prevent duplication with providing ASD treatment as a Medicaid benefit.



Tentative Timeline

January – Summer 2015

- Design the ASD treatment services benefit and
- Determine how each child's ASD treatment services will be coordinated and managed.

Summer 2015

- Provide opportunity for public comment prior to submission of plan to federal government.

All dates are tentative and subject to change.



Tentative Timeline

Fall 2015

- Submit documents to the federal government requesting approval for the ASD treatment services benefit changes and removing ASD treatment from the CLTS Waivers.
- Providers will be informed on how to seek service authorization and bill for services.
- Prior to the start date, the Department will communicate with members, parents, providers, care coordinators and other stakeholders regarding the details the changes.

All dates are tentative and subject to change.



Tentative Timeline

January 1, 2016

- Start date for ASD treatment services being provided through BadgerCare Plus; Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind or Disabled; or the Katie Beckett Program instead of the CLTS Waivers.
- Start date depends on approval of the federal government.

All dates are tentative and subject to change.



How Will I Be Notified of the Changes?

- Information about the changes will be available on the Department's website at dhs.wi.gov/clts/waiver/autism/updates.htm
- In addition, the Department will communicate with individuals and stakeholders, including parents and their children currently receiving ASD treatment services, providers, and county CLTS Waivers agencies.
- **Note:** The plan and method for disseminating information is currently being determined.



How Will I Be Able to Comment or Provide My Input?

- Information about the changes will be available on the Department's website at dhs.wi.gov/clts/waiver/autism/updates.htm
- There will be a public comment period for the changes. It is anticipated that this period will be in summer of 2015.
- When the public comment period begins, this webpage will direct you to where you can review the materials available for public comment.



How Can I Get Updates From the Department?

- The Department has created an email list so that interested individuals can receive updates related to this project.
- Sign up for the email list at dhs.wi.gov/clts/waiver/autism/updates.htm
- **Note:** A message will be sent to the email list when materials will be available for public comment.



Summary of Key Information

- Wisconsin's changes to the coverage of ASD treatment services are required by the federal government.
- Wisconsin's changes will increase the availability and comprehensiveness of ASD treatment services available through Medicaid.
- Our goal is to make the transition as seamless as possible to minimize the disruption of treatment in progress.



Questions

- All dates are tentative and subject to change.
- Learn more about the changes and sign up for email updates at dhs.wi.gov/clts/waiver/autism/updates.htm