

ABA Addendum and Treatment Form Updates Quick Reference Guide

Effective June 29, 2022, changes will be implemented to the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) addendum and treatment forms in the Incedo Provider Portal (IPP). Please see the information below for a detailed description of the updates to, and use of, these forms. If you have questions regarding these forms, please contact Optum Provider Relations at marylandproviderrelations@optum.com.

1. Changes to the ABA Treatment form:

- a. **New! Question regarding plans to provide services in a school setting:** Providers will report if they have observed the participant in the school setting and consulted with the school personnel prior to making a recommendation for services to be temporarily rendered in that setting, as shown in the screenshot below.

Is the participant in school?*

Yes No

Hours participant attends school per week (Including homeschool instruction):*

Will any of the direct ABA services be provided in a school setting?*

Yes No

Has the Clinician Supervising Treatment observed the participant in the school setting and consulted with school personnel prior to making the recommendation to provide services temporarily in the school setting?*

Yes No

Note: In order to demonstrate medical necessity for services to be provided in the school setting, we strongly encourage providers to complete this step prior to making a request to provide services temporarily in the school setting.

- b. **New! Question regarding plans to provide services in a clinic-based setting:** Providers will report what percentage of direct ABA services (Billing code 97153) will be provided in a clinic-based setting, as shown in the screenshot below.

Will any of the direct ABA services be provided in a clinic-based setting?*

Yes No

Note: Please ensure the individualized treatment plan includes a plan to generalize direct ABA services to other settings such as home and/or the community

Select the percentage of time direct ABA services will be provided in a clinic-based setting*

Less than 50% Greater than 50% 100%

- c. **Concurrent Treatment requests only:** Providers will be required to specifically report the utilization of the following authorized services for Billing codes 97153, 97155 and 97156, as shown in the screenshot below.

- d. **Attestation:** The system will now autogenerate the name of the individual who completed the form and the date it was completed.

2. Changes to ABA Addendum Forms:

Providers are required to submit addendum requests via the IPP. Providers requesting to increase the intensity of currently authorized ABA services and/or requesting to add service(s) to a current authorization must follow the process described below. Once an addendum request is submitted through the IPP, Optum Maryland has up to 14 calendar days to make a determination on the addendum request.

Prior to submitting an addendum request, providers should obtain all necessary clinical information and objective data to support the request to avoid delays in processing the request.

Reference the alert titled: [ABA Provider Form Changes and Process to Request Addendums](#) to understand the steps on how to request an addendum to treatment.

Below are the changes made to the ABA Addendum Form:

- a. **Requested Start Date:** An addendum to an ABA authorization cannot have a requested start date that exceeds 20 calendar days from the date of request submission. For reference, see [Entering Backdated Authorizations: Update](#)

- b. **New! Request to Increase Intensity of Authorized Services:** Providers will be asked if they are utilizing 100% of the authorized services, to which they will have to attest, prior to requesting an increase in intensity of services.

Increased intensity of one or more currently authorized services.

Are you utilizing 100% of the authorized intensity for the service(s) you are requesting an increase for?*

Yes No

- c. **New! Reason for Requesting an Addendum to Treatment:** Providers will be required to enter the reason(s) they are submitting an addendum to the authorized services. The provider may choose one or both of the following reasons for the addendum request:

- i. New or increased intensity of challenging behaviors:
1. Select either “emergence of new challenging behaviors” or
 2. “changes in current challenging behaviors”

Once selected, a pop-up appears for you to directly enter quantitative data to support the request.

Reason for Requesting an Addendum to Treatment

Across the current authorization period, which areas of need have changed to warrant this request at this time?

New or increased intensity of challenging behaviors

New or increased intensity of challenging behaviors**

N/A - No behavioral challenges impacting treatment Emergence of new challenging behaviors Changes in current challenging behaviors

(check all that apply)

Aggression

Self Injury

Quantitative baseline* per* hour Current data:* per* hour

Property Destruction

Elopement posing a safety risk

Other behavioral challenges

- ii. Progress, or lack thereof, is driving a need to modify treatment:
1. Select which circumstance applies.
 2. If selecting minimal to no progress on skill acquisition goals, providers are prompted to explain why the currently authorized hours to address the barrier to progress.

Need to modify treatment

Minimal to no progress on skill acquisition goals

Please explain what current barriers have impacted the ability to address this area of need within the currently authorized services.*

Parent/caregiver requires increased level of support

Transitioning to parent/caregiver training model

Participant's progress supports generalization to group ABA treatment

d. **New! Treatment plan modifications to address the change in clinical presentation:** Providers will be able to select what specific modification(s) will be made to address the reason that the addendum is being requested and document what specific changes will be made.

How will the treatment plan be modified to address the change in clinical presentation?

Modify/add skill acquisition goals

List new goals and/or strategies below*

Modify/add parent training goals

List new goals and/or strategies below*

Modify/add behavior reduction goals

Modify behavior intervention plan