

Autism Spectrum Disorder Senate Bill 2654



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Florida**

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

As defined in the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* of the American Psychiatric Association, autism spectrum disorder refers to any of the following disorders:

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder

To be eligible for coverage, children must be under 18 years of age, or still in high school, and have been diagnosed as having autism spectrum disorder developmental disability at 8 years of age or younger.

Benefit coverage for autism spectrum disorders includes the following:

- Well-baby and well-child screening for diagnosing the presence of autism spectrum disorder
- Treatment through speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and applied behavior analysis provided by certified behavior analysts, psychologists, clinical social workers and others
Note: The standard dollar limits that apply to outpatient therapies and spinal manipulations (combined) are separate from the outpatient therapies listed above and therefore charges for the outpatient therapies listed above when provided for Autism Spectrum Disorder, will accumulate separately.
- Coverage for the services described will be limited to \$36,000 per benefit year and may not exceed \$200,000 in total lifetime benefits.
- Autism Mandate, which is a Florida mandate, overlaps with Mental Health Parity. Though there is a \$36,000 benefit period max and \$200,000 lifetime max, behavioral/mental services related to Autism Spectrum Disorder will continue to be covered after the \$36,000 benefit period max and \$200,000 lifetime max have been met.