



DWIHN
Your Link to Holistic Healthcare



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BULLETIN NUMBER: 26-002

ISSUED/REVISED: 6/3/2026

EFFECTIVE: 7/1/2026

SUBJECT: Applied Behavior Analysis Behavior Assessment Intake Code

SERVICE AFFECTED: 97151– Initial and annual Behavior Assessment
(Autism Services – ages 0 to 21st birthday)

BACKGROUND:

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services are guided by comprehensive assessments and individualized treatment plans. An initial behavior assessment (97151) is required at the start of ABA services followed by periodic reassessments to monitor progress and update treatment goals. Currently, when a member transfers to another ABA provider mid-authorization period, an additional initial or reassessment (97151) is often requested even when a full re-assessment may not be clinically necessary. This bulletin establishes distinct procedure code modifiers and clinical expectations for 97151 to improve standardization, utilization oversight, and alignment with treatment planning requirements.

PROCEDURE:

Effective 7/1/2026, the following ABA behavior assessment structure will apply:

Behavior identification assessment includes face-to-face, standardized and non-standardized assessments, and direct behavior observations to assess skills across various domains (e.g., social skills, behavior, daily living skills, communication).

- **Code:** 97151 IN – Initial Behavior Assessment
- **Code:** 97151 PR – Progress Review Assessment
- **Code:** 97151 AN – Annual Behavior Assessment
- **Code:** 97151 NT – New Provider Intake Assessment

AUTHORIZATIONS & CLAIMS:

- All 97151 ABA behavior assessment codes require prior authorization.
- Claims must include the appropriate cpt code, modifiers, and staff credentialing modifiers according to the approved Individual Plan of Service (IPOS) and authorization.
- Refer to the Reference Section below for additional resources and information

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CHART:

Procedure Code	Modifier	Description	Unit Type	Parameters	Duration
97151	IN	<p>Initial Behavior Assessment Parameters: Each member is eligible for one (1) initial behavior assessment at the start of ABA services. This comprehensive evaluation includes, at minimum, review of records, behavior function hypotheses, medical and family history, routines, skills in repertoire, and treatment recommendations.</p>	15 minutes	1 Assessment up to 16 units every 6-months	4 hours
97151	PR	<p>Behavior Assessment Update Parameters: Behavior assessment progress includes standardized and non-standardized assessments to update goals, <i>does not include face-to-face</i>. Members will use new code 97151-PR when performing a progress behavior assessment, which is required every six (6) months following the initial and annual evaluations. The progress assessment must include, at minimum, a summary of goals met/achieved, in progress, or discontinued over the previous 6 months, new treatment goals, transition or discharge planning, and identified risk factors.</p>	15 minutes	1 Assessment up to 12 units every 6-months	3 hours
97151	AN	<p>Behavior Assessment Annual An annual behavior assessment is required every twelve (12) months following the initial assessment. This comprehensive evaluation</p>	15 minutes	1 Assessment up to 24 units annually	6 hours

		includes face-to-face assessment and direct observation and is used to determine continued medical necessity and eligibility for ongoing ABA services.			
97151	NT	Behavior Assessment Intake Behavior Assessment Intake assessment includes face-to-face, standardized and non-standardized assessments, and direct observation to allow for a general ABA intake assessment to assess medical necessity. <i>New code, 97151-NT</i> , must be used when a member transfers to a new ABA provider during an active authorization period (i.e., engaged in ABA services with another provider).	15 minutes	New Provider Intake Assessment up to 8 units annually	2 hours

REFERENCES:

Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/doing-business/providers/providers/medicaid/policyforms/medicaid-provider-manual>

DWIHN Rate Charts

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DWIHN Coding Manual Bulletins

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DWIHN Service Utilization Guidelines

<https://www.dwihn.org/resources/upload/5264/DWIHN%20MASTER%20SUG%20LIST%20UPDATED%209-22-23.xlsx>

Policy Stat:

<https://dwmha.policystat.com/?It=BruL4kkjgLB0gDIXxoLM-q>

MDHHS Code Chart:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/reporting>

If there are any additional questions and or concerns please contact: procedure.coding@dwihn.org