



Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

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Applied Behavioral Analysis under Early and Period Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

To: ABA providers for children with Autism

From: Melissa Stone, DDS Director

Date: January 24, 2022

RE: Telemedicine

As you are probably aware, DHS promulgated several Covid manuals during the pandemic that outlined emergency rule suspensions and allowed telemedicine options for certain services to ensure continuity of care. The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) promulgated a DDS specific Covid manual that permitted the delivery of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services via telemedicine in limited situations. This manual also temporarily extended the expiration dates for prescriptions and evaluations related to ABA services. These emergency rules related to ABA services expired on December 31, 2021.

The Arkansas General Assembly passed several acts relating to the provision of telemedicine services during the 2021 fiscal session. In response to those acts, the Division of Medical Services promulgated a new part "105.190 Telemedicine" in Section 1 of each Medicaid Manual (Medicaid Telemedicine Rule) detailing requirements related to telemedicine options for Medicaid services. The Medicaid Telemedicine Rule became effective January 1, 2022, and applies to ABA services since ABA services are available under EPSDT when properly prescribed by the primary care physician (PCP) on a DMS-693 form.

Service delivery via telemedicine must be comparable to in-person service delivery to be reimbursed under the Medicaid Telemedicine Rule. This means a provider cannot conduct ABA services via telemedicine unless the PCP states on the "prescribed treatment" line of the DMS-693 that service delivery through telemedicine is comparable to in-person service delivery. If the PCP does not state this on the DMS-693, then ABA service delivery through telemedicine is not permitted.

If a provider or PCP believes that ABA services prescribed on a DMS-693 issued prior to January 1, 2022, should be able to be performed via telemedicine, then the PCP may submit an updated DMS-693 with the required information to Kepro (formerly eQhealth).