

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5107

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HARCKHAM, ADDABBO, CLEARE, LIU, RHOADS, WALCZYK --  
read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to  
the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to coverage for the  
screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-  
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph 25 of subsection  
2 (i) of section 3216 of the insurance law, subparagraph (B) as amended by  
3 section 2 of subpart A of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019,  
4 subparagraph (C) as amended by chapter 596 of the laws of 2011, items  
5 (i) and (iii) of subparagraph (C) as amended by section 3 of subpart A  
6 of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 (B) Every policy that provides physician services, medical, major  
9 medical or similar comprehensive-type coverage shall provide coverage  
10 for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder  
11 in accordance with this paragraph and shall not exclude coverage for the  
12 screening, diagnosis or treatment of medical conditions otherwise  
13 covered by the policy because the individual is diagnosed with autism  
14 spectrum disorder. Such coverage may be subject to annual deductibles,  
15 copayments and coinsurance as may be deemed appropriate by the super-  
16 intendent and shall be consistent with those imposed on other benefits  
17 under the policy. Coverage for applied behavior analysis and develop-  
18 mental, individual-differences, relationship-based treatment shall be  
19 subject to a maximum benefit of six hundred eighty hours of treatment  
20 per policy during a calendar year per covered individual. This paragraph  
21 shall not be construed as limiting the benefits that are otherwise  
22 available to an individual under the policy, provided however that such  
23 policy shall not contain any limitations on visits that are solely  
24 applied to the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, except as provided

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 in this subparagraph for coverage for applied behavior analysis and  
2 developmental, individual differences, relationship-based treatment. No  
3 insurer shall terminate coverage or refuse to deliver, execute, issue,  
4 amend, adjust, or renew coverage to an individual solely because the  
5 individual is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or has received  
6 treatment for autism spectrum disorder. Coverage shall be subject to  
7 utilization review and external appeals of health care services pursuant  
8 to article forty-nine of this chapter as well as case management and  
9 other managed care provisions.

10 (C) For purposes of this paragraph:

11 (i) "autism spectrum disorder" means any pervasive developmental  
12 disorder as defined in the most recent edition of the diagnostic and  
13 statistical manual of mental disorders, including, but not limited to,  
14 autistic spectrum disorder.

15 (ii) "applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and  
16 evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and  
17 consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human  
18 behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and  
19 functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behav-  
20 ior.

21 (iii) "behavioral health treatment" means counseling and treatment  
22 programs, including developmental, individual-differences and relation-  
23 ship-based treatment, when provided by a licensed provider with a  
24 professional certificate in developmental, individual-differences, rela-  
25 tionship-based treatment from the interdisciplinary council on develop-  
26 ment and learning, and applied behavior analysis, when provided by a  
27 person licensed, certified or otherwise authorized to provide applied  
28 behavior analysis, that are necessary to develop, maintain, or restore,  
29 to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.  
30 Individuals that provide behavioral health treatment under the super-  
31 vision of a licensed provider pursuant to this paragraph shall be  
32 subject to standards of professionalism, supervision and relevant expe-  
33 rience pursuant to regulations promulgated by the superintendent in  
34 consultation with the commissioners of health and education.

35 (iv) "diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder" means assessments, evalu-  
36 ations, or tests to diagnose whether an individual has autism spectrum  
37 disorder.

38 (v) "pharmacy care" means medications prescribed by a licensed health  
39 care provider legally authorized to prescribe under title eight of the  
40 education law.

41 (vi) "psychiatric care" means direct or consultative services provided  
42 by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist prac-  
43 tices.

44 (vii) "psychological care" means direct or consultative services  
45 provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychol-  
46 ogist practices.

47 (viii) "therapeutic care" means services provided by licensed or  
48 certified [~~speech therapists, occupational therapists, social workers,~~  
49 ~~or physical therapists~~] providers in the fields of counseling, occupa-  
50 tional therapy, physical therapy, social work, or speech and language  
51 pathology.

52 (ix) "treatment of autism spectrum disorder" shall include the follow-  
53 ing care and assistive communication devices prescribed or ordered for  
54 an individual diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by a licensed  
55 physician or a licensed psychologist:

56 (1) behavioral health treatment;

1 (2) psychiatric care;  
2 (3) psychological care;  
3 (4) medical care provided by a licensed health care provider;  
4 (5) therapeutic care, including therapeutic care which is deemed habi-  
5 litative or nonrestorative, in the event that the policy provides cover-  
6 age for therapeutic care; and  
7 (6) pharmacy care in the event that the policy provides coverage for  
8 prescription drugs.

9 (x) "developmental, individual-differences, relationship-based treat-  
10 ment" means the implementation of a floortime intervention that is based  
11 on an assessment of functional-emotional development and the person's  
12 individual profile, while understanding that human development is  
13 fostered in the context of relationships with others. The primary goal  
14 is to promote development and address developmental challenges and defi-  
15 cits that often accompany autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

16 § 2. Subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph 17 of subsection (1) of  
17 section 3221 of the insurance law, subparagraph (B) as amended by  
18 section 19 of subpart A of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019,  
19 subparagraph (C) as amended by chapter 596 of the laws of 2011, items  
20 (i) and (iii) of subparagraph (C) as amended by section 20 of subpart A  
21 of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as  
22 follows:

23 (B) Every group or blanket policy that provides physician services,  
24 medical, major medical or similar comprehensive-type coverage shall  
25 provide coverage for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism  
26 spectrum disorder in accordance with this paragraph and shall not  
27 exclude coverage for the screening, diagnosis or treatment of medical  
28 conditions otherwise covered by the policy because the individual is  
29 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Such coverage may be subject to  
30 annual deductibles, copayments and coinsurance as may be deemed appro-  
31 priate by the superintendent and shall be consistent with those imposed  
32 on other benefits under the group or blanket policy. Coverage for  
33 applied behavior analysis and developmental, individual-differences,  
34 relationship-based treatment shall be subject to a maximum benefit of  
35 six hundred eighty hours of treatment per policy during a calendar year  
36 per covered individual. This paragraph shall not be construed as limit-  
37 ing the benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under the  
38 group or blanket policy, provided however that such policy shall not  
39 contain any limitations on visits that are solely applied to the treat-  
40 ment of autism spectrum disorder, except as provided in this subpara-  
41 graph for coverage for applied behavior analysis and developmental,  
42 individual differences, relationship-based treatment. No insurer shall  
43 terminate coverage or refuse to deliver, execute, issue, amend, adjust,  
44 or renew coverage to an individual solely because the individual is  
45 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or has received treatment for  
46 autism spectrum disorder. Coverage shall be subject to utilization  
47 review and external appeals of health care services pursuant to article  
48 forty-nine of this chapter as well as case management and other managed  
49 care provisions.

50 (C) For purposes of this paragraph:

51 (i) "autism spectrum disorder" means any pervasive developmental  
52 disorder as defined in the most recent edition of the diagnostic and  
53 statistical manual of mental disorders, including, but not limited to,  
54 autistic spectrum disorder.

55 (ii) "applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and  
56 evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and

1 consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human  
2 behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and  
3 functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behav-  
4 ior.

5 (iii) "behavioral health treatment" means counseling and treatment  
6 programs, including developmental, individual-differences, relation-  
7 ship-based treatment, when provided by a licensed provider with a  
8 professional certificate in developmental, individual-differences, rela-  
9 tionship-based treatment from the interdisciplinary council on develop-  
10 ment and learning, and applied behavior analysis, when provided by a  
11 person licensed, certified or otherwise authorized to provide applied  
12 behavior analysis, that are necessary to develop, maintain, or restore,  
13 to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.  
14 Individuals that provide behavioral health treatment under the super-  
15 vision of a licensed provider pursuant to this paragraph shall be  
16 subject to standards of professionalism, supervision and relevant expe-  
17 rience pursuant to regulations promulgated by the superintendent in  
18 consultation with the commissioners of health and education.

19 (iv) "diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder" means assessments, evalu-  
20 ations, or tests to diagnose whether an individual has autism spectrum  
21 disorder.

22 (v) "pharmacy care" means medications prescribed by a licensed health  
23 care provider legally authorized to prescribe under title eight of the  
24 education law.

25 (vi) "psychiatric care" means direct or consultative services provided  
26 by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist prac-  
27 tices.

28 (vii) "psychological care" means direct or consultative services  
29 provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychol-  
30 ogist practices.

31 (viii) "therapeutic care" means services provided by licensed or  
32 certified [~~speech therapists, occupational therapists, social workers,~~  
33 ~~or physical therapists~~] providers in the fields of counseling, occupa-  
34 tional therapy, physical therapy, social work, or speech and language  
35 pathology.

36 (ix) "treatment of autism spectrum disorder" shall include the follow-  
37 ing care and assistive communication devices prescribed or ordered for  
38 an individual diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by a licensed  
39 physician or a licensed psychologist:

- 40 (1) behavioral health treatment;
- 41 (2) psychiatric care;
- 42 (3) psychological care;
- 43 (4) medical care provided by a licensed health care provider;
- 44 (5) therapeutic care, including therapeutic care which is deemed habi-  
45 litative or nonrestorative, in the event that the policy provides cover-  
46 age for therapeutic care; and
- 47 (6) pharmacy care in the event that the policy provides coverage for  
48 prescription drugs.

49 (x) "developmental, individual-differences, relationship-based treat-  
50 ment" means the implementation of a floortime intervention that is based  
51 on an assessment of functional-emotional development and the person's  
52 individual profile, while understanding that human development is  
53 fostered in the context of relationships with others. The primary goal  
54 is to promote development and address developmental challenges and defi-  
55 cits that often accompany autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

1 § 3. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection (ee) of section 4303 of the  
2 insurance law, paragraph 2 as amended by section 31 of subpart A of part  
3 BB of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019, paragraph 3 as amended by chapter  
4 596 of the laws of 2011, subparagraphs (A) and (C) of paragraph 3 as  
5 amended by section 32 of subpart A of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws  
6 of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

7 (2) Every contract that provides physician services, medical, major  
8 medical or similar comprehensive-type coverage shall provide coverage  
9 for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder  
10 in accordance with this paragraph and shall not exclude coverage for the  
11 screening, diagnosis or treatment of medical conditions otherwise  
12 covered by the contract because the individual is diagnosed with autism  
13 spectrum disorder. Such coverage may be subject to annual deductibles,  
14 copayments and coinsurance as may be deemed appropriate by the super-  
15 intendent and shall be consistent with those imposed on other benefits  
16 under the contract. Coverage for applied behavior analysis and develop-  
17 mental, individual-differences, relationship-based treatment shall be  
18 subject to a maximum benefit of six hundred eighty hours of treatment  
19 per policy during a calendar year per covered individual. This paragraph  
20 shall not be construed as limiting the benefits that are otherwise  
21 available to an individual under the contract, provided however that  
22 such contract shall not contain any limitations on visits that are sole-  
23 ly applied to the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, except as  
24 provided in this subparagraph for coverage for applied behavior analysis  
25 and developmental, individual differences, relationship-based treatment.  
26 No insurer shall terminate coverage or refuse to deliver, execute,  
27 issue, amend, adjust, or renew coverage to an individual solely because  
28 the individual is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or has  
29 received treatment for autism spectrum disorder. Coverage shall be  
30 subject to utilization review and external appeals of health care  
31 services pursuant to article forty-nine of this chapter as well as case  
32 management and other managed care provisions.

33 (3) For purposes of this subsection:

34 (A) "autism spectrum disorder" means any pervasive developmental  
35 disorder as defined in the most recent edition of the diagnostic and  
36 statistical manual of mental disorders, including, but not limited to,  
37 autistic spectrum disorder.

38 (B) "applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and  
39 evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and  
40 consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human  
41 behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and  
42 functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behav-  
43 ior.

44 (C) "behavioral health treatment" means counseling and treatment  
45 programs, including developmental, individual-differences, relation-  
46 ship-based treatment, when provided by a licensed provider with a  
47 professional certificate in developmental, individual-differences, rela-  
48 tionship-based treatment from the interdisciplinary council on develop-  
49 ment and learning, and applied behavior analysis, when provided by a  
50 person that is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized to provide  
51 applied behavior analysis, that are necessary to develop, maintain, or  
52 restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an indi-  
53 vidual. Individuals that provide behavioral health treatment under the  
54 supervision of a licensed provider pursuant to this subsection shall be  
55 subject to standards of professionalism, supervision and relevant expe-

1 rience pursuant to regulations promulgated by the superintendent in  
2 consultation with the commissioners of health and education.

3 (D) "diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder" means assessments, evalu-  
4 ations, or tests to diagnose whether an individual has autism spectrum  
5 disorder.

6 (E) "pharmacy care" means medications prescribed by a licensed health  
7 care provider legally authorized to prescribe under title eight of the  
8 education law.

9 (F) "psychiatric care" means direct or consultative services provided  
10 by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist prac-  
11 tices.

12 (G) "psychological care" means direct or consultative services  
13 provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychol-  
14 ogist practices.

15 (H) "therapeutic care" means services provided by licensed or certi-  
16 fied [~~speech therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, or~~  
17 ~~physical therapists~~] providers in the fields of counseling, occupational  
18 therapy, physical therapy, social work, or speech and language  
19 pathology.

20 (I) "treatment of autism spectrum disorder" shall include the follow-  
21 ing care and assistive communication devices prescribed or ordered for  
22 an individual diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by a licensed  
23 physician or a licensed psychologist:

24 (i) behavioral health treatment;

25 (ii) psychiatric care;

26 (iii) psychological care;

27 (iv) medical care provided by a licensed health care provider;

28 (v) therapeutic care, including therapeutic care which is deemed habi-  
29 litative or nonrestorative, in the event that the policy provides cover-  
30 age for therapeutic care; and

31 (vi) pharmacy care in the event that the contract provides coverage  
32 for prescription drugs.

33 § 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
34 have become a law.