



**Louisiana Department of Health
Informational Bulletin 25-9
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Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Manual Updates

The [Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) Manual](#) has been updated. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has expanded the definition of qualified health care professionals (QHCP) to allow pediatricians screening with the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised (MCHAT-R/F), and clinical judgment, to make an autism diagnosis and complete a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation.

For children who receive a high-risk score of greater than or equal to 8 on the MCHAT-R/F, pediatricians can independently make a diagnosis of autism (if their clinical judgment concurs with the score). For children who receive a moderate risk score of 3 to 7 on the MCHAT-R/F, pediatricians can complete the MCHAT-R/F follow-up interview. Based on their confidence in their clinical judgment, the pediatrician can either independently make a diagnosis of autism or refer to a subspecialist for a diagnostic evaluation. Subspecialists are listed in the ABA Manual.

LDH has also published new Coordination of Care requirements. The primary care provider's (PCP) name and contact information must appear on all behavior treatment plans and the PCP shall be copied on all behavior treatment plans. This can be accomplished through sharing of electronic health records.

All above changes have been updated in the ABA Manual, available online at <https://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/providermanuals/manuals/ABA/ABA.pdf>.

Each managed care organization (MCO) must update its system to reflect changes within 30 days of this notification (Section 2.18.9.5 of the contract).

Questions regarding these changes should be directed to Crystal Faison at Crystal.Faison@la.gov or at 225-342-8233.

For questions regarding managed care claims should be directed to the appropriate MCO.
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