

Preparing for the New Autism Insurance Law (Act 62 of 2008)

What Families Need to Do Now

A new state law (Act 62) requires certain insurance plans to cover a broad range of medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services for children and adolescents under 21 on the autism spectrum. We recommend that you follow the steps below in order to determine whether this new law applies to your child and, if it does, how you can prepare for the changes that may occur when this law goes into effect.

1. Determine if the law applies to your child.

See the attached flow chart, “Does the PA Autism Insurance Act Apply to My Child?”

2. If the law applies, contact your Human Resources person, or whoever handles your company’s health benefits, to find out when your child’s health insurance renews. **The law will not apply to your child until your child’s health insurance policy renews and in no case before July 1, 2009.**
3. If your child is currently receiving services through Medical Assistance (including CBHNP, CCBH, CBH, Magellan, or Value), provide a copy of your child’s other insurance card (**both sides**) to his/her service provider(s) along with a written note as to when that insurance policy renews.
4. Ask your child’s service provider(s) whether they are planning to sign up with the insurance plan that covers your child. Insurance plans covered by the new law are required to allow any autism service provider to sign up if that provider currently participates in Medical Assistance and agrees to accept the plan’s payment levels and terms and conditions. However, providers are not required to sign up with any specific plan.
5. If your child’s service provider is planning to sign up with your child’s insurance plan, ask if they have any information regarding the insurance plan’s authorization process. This process may be different than the process currently used to authorize your child’s services.
6. Also contact your child’s insurance company to find out if they can provide any information about their authorization process.
7. If your child’s service provider is not planning to sign with the insurance plan that covers your child, you should contact that insurance company to find out what other providers will accept your child’s insurance. **You will not be able to use Medical Assistance to cover those services covered by your child’s insurance plan if the provider does not also accept that insurance plan.**

If you have other questions regarding the Pennsylvania Autism Insurance Act, you can send them to ra-in-autism@state.pa.us. Also check www.paautisminsurance.org for additional information.

For more information on how Act 62 affects services provided by The Vista Foundation, please contact Jim Boudier, Chief Operating Officer, at (717) 835-0310.

Does the PA Autism Insurance Act Apply to My Child?

