

NOTE: These criteria apply to Capital BlueCross (CBC) and Independence Blue Cross (IBC) benefit plans.

Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) Services

Criteria for Authorization

The specified requirements for severity of need, and intensity and quality of service must be met to satisfy the criteria for PHP Services.

I. Admission - Severity of Need

Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I must be met to satisfy the criteria for severity of need.

There must be documentation of:

- A. An established DSM-IV diagnosis of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder.¹
- B. A severe challenging behavior that:
 - Presents a health or safety risk to self or others (such as self-injury, aggression toward others, destruction of property, stereotyped/repetitive behaviors, elopement, severe disruptive behavior); *or*
 - Significantly interferes with home or community activities.
- C. Less-intensive behavior treatment or other therapy has been seriously considered, or has not been sufficient to reduce interfering behaviors, to increase pro-social behaviors, or to maintain desired behaviors.
- D. The patient is medically stable and does not require the 24-hour medical/nursing monitoring or procedures provided in a hospital level of care.
- E. Clinical evidence that the patient's condition requires a structured program focusing on skills training that facilitates the development of an individual's independent living and social skills, including the ability to make decisions regarding self care and community participation.
- F. The service promotes the use of resources to integrate the individual into the community.
- G. Services may be provided in an approved rehabilitation facility or in a setting most conducive to promoting the individuals participating in the community.
- H. The level of intensity may vary depending upon changes in the individual's environment or individual's needs.
- I. Day treatment services require oversight of a psychiatrist or psychologist.

II. Admission – Intensity and Quality of Service

Criteria A, B, C, D and E must be met to satisfy the criteria for intensity and quality of service.

- A. The individual has a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) that is the cause of significant psychological, personal care, vocational, educational or social impairment such as:
- An inability to care for personal needs and carry out independent living skills
 - Extremely limited school performance
 - Severe interpersonal relationship problems.
- B. Without day treatment services the impairment puts the individual at risk for:
- A higher level of care
 - Threatened loss of current support system.
- C. Based on the individual's history or current condition, less frequent intervention is not sufficient to prevent clinical deterioration, stabilize the disorder, support effective rehabilitation or avert the need for a more intensive level of care.
- D. There is an expectation that the patient's condition can improve through provision of medically necessary and appropriate rehabilitative intervention.
- E. Intensity of Service
- The patient requires a program of rehabilitative support to remain in the community and;
 - The individual treatment plan documents active rehabilitation services geared toward improving the symptoms, behavior or level of functioning.

Criteria for Continued Stay

III. Continued Stay

Criteria A, B and C must be met to satisfy the criteria for continued stay:

- A. The expectation that continuation of services will promote, maintain or improve the patient's level of functioning in at least one of the following areas:
- Ability to care for personal needs and improve personal living skills
 - School improvement
 - Interpersonal relationships improvement.

- B. The patient's continued need for services at the day treatment level facilitates the individual to:
- Function as independently in the community as possible
 - Avoid a higher level of care
- C. Clinical evidence indicating that:
- Termination or reduction of day treatment would result in an exacerbation of patient's already compromised level of functioning
 - The patient's condition can be expected to improve or be maintained through medically necessary and appropriate skills training and developmental interventions.
- D. Reasonable expectation, based on the patient's clinical history and recent clinical experience, that the current treatment is of benefit to the patient, such that withdrawal of treatment will result in the patient's decompensation or the recurrence of signs or symptoms that necessitated treatment.

Exclusion Criteria

IV. Exclusion Criteria

Day treatment services will not be authorized for any of the following purposes:

- A. Speech therapy
- B. Occupational therapy
- C. Vocational rehabilitation
- D. Supportive respite care
- E. Recreational therapy
- F. Orientation and mobility.

Discharge Criteria

V. Discharge Criteria

Criteria A, B, C or D must be met to satisfy the criteria for discharge.

- A. No meaningful, measurable improvement has been documented in the patient's behavior(s) for a period of three months of optimal treatment and there is no reasonable expectation that termination of the current treatment would put the patient at risk for decompensation or the recurrence of signs and symptoms that necessitated treatment.
 - For changes to be "meaningful" they must be durable over time beyond the end of the actual treatment session, and generalizable outside of the treatment setting to the patient's residence and to the larger community in which the patient resides.

- B. Treatment is making the symptoms persistently worse.
- C. The patient has achieved adequate stabilization of the challenging behavior and less-intensive modes of therapy are appropriate.
- D. The patient demonstrates an inability to maintain long-term gains from the proposed plan of treatment.

¹ The DSM-IV-TR, Fourth Edition, 2000 has established a category of Pervasive Developmental Disorders, which includes: Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder, and Pervasive Development Disorder Not Otherwise Specified.