



MEDICAID AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Medicaid pays for services for children with autism spectrum disorder. These services include tests to find out if a child has autism. It also pays for treatment.

Our guide on Signing Up for Medicaid and PeachCare tells you how to sign up for Medicaid.

What does Medicaid pay for?

Medicaid will pay for a test to find out if a child has autism. These tests are called diagnostic tests or assessments. Your child's doctor can order the tests. Sometimes the doctor will want you to see a special doctor to order the tests.

Medicaid will also pay for a treatment called **Applied Behavior Analysis**.

Applied behavior analysis treatment helps a child learn social skills, language, and other life skills. Sometimes the treatment is with a group of children, and sometimes the treatment is one-on-one with a counselor.

How do I find someone who will provide treatment?

Your child needs to get help as soon as possible. Ask your doctor or a social worker for a list of therapists. You may need to get on a waiting list. You may need to challenge Medicaid if you cannot find a therapist or if it is taking too long to get services. Your challenge is called an **Appeal**.

You can ask a lawyer to help file an appeal. Look at the bottom of this page for information about free legal help from a lawyer.

What if Medicaid will not pay for treatment?

Medicaid will sometimes refuse to pay for tests and treatment. It may also refuse to pay for as many treatments as your child needs. You can challenge Medicaid if Medicaid refuses to pay. Your challenge is called an appeal. You can ask a lawyer to help file an appeal.

For free legal help, call Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Disability Integration Project at (404) 377-0707 or the Georgia Legal Services Program at (888) 408-1004.