



## 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) and is now allowing pediatricians under a joint work agreement with an interdisciplinary team of providers who are qualified to diagnose developmental disabilities to complete Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations (CDE).

LDH has also published new guidelines for the number of technicians and Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (CaBA) a supervising licensed professional should work with per day. The number cannot exceed 24 beneficiaries per day. This language should reduce unnecessary initiations of fraud and abuse inquiries.

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2024 defines 97153 as being performed by a technician under the supervision of the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) billing provider or QHCP. Persons reviewing claims should expect to see multiple claims lines for different beneficiaries on the same day billed under one provider. CPT code 97153 is used for patients with developmental disabilities or maladaptive behavior that affect their social skills and communication. This treatment is administered by a technician under the direction of a physician or other QHCP, in a face-to-face setting with one patient every 15 minutes.

LDH has also updated the telehealth section of the ABA Manual. Any references to new and established patients have been removed. When ABA services are provided via telehealth, there must be an approved Behavior Treatment Plan that indicates telehealth is being used and the same standard of care can be met via telehealth.

All above changes have been updated in the ABA Manual, available online at [ABA.pdf \(lamedicaid.com\)](#). UHCCP will update their system to reflect the changes above within 60 days of this notification. Updates not requiring system changes must be implemented effective May 10, 2024.

LDH has published Informational Bulletin 24-13 for your reference [IB24-13.pdf \(la.gov\)](#).

For questions or concerns regarding any bulletin, contact UnitedHealthcare Community Plan at 1-866-675-1607.