

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT202627    FEBRUARY 26, 2026

## IHCP announces changes to applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy services

Beginning April 1, 2026, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will implement several updates to the applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy benefit to strengthen program integrity, promote sustainability and support consistent service delivery.

These changes include the following:

- Updates to member eligibility for ABA therapy services
- Revisions to provider qualifications for rendering certain ABA therapy services
- Rate adjustments and group size stratification
- New modifier requirements and lifetime service allocation for comprehensive ABA therapy services
- IHCP Provider Healthcare Portal (IHCP Portal) enhancements that improve transparency for providers
- Defining hours threshold for targeted ABA therapy
- Caregiver coaching requirements
- RBT supervision requirements
- Telehealth restrictions for certain ABA therapy services



Additional details on each of these changes are outlined in this bulletin. Additionally, all ABA therapy policies outlined in previously published IHCP bulletins remain in effect unless explicitly revised or superseded by the guidance in this bulletin.

### EPSDT eligibility

Effective April 1, 2026, the IHCP will cover ABA therapy services exclusively through Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services. Under federal law at *Code of Federal Regulations 42 CFR § 441.50*, EPSDT services are available to Medicaid-eligible individuals under 21 years of age. To support continuity of care, the IHCP will implement a six-month transition window, from April 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2026, during which members age 21 and older who have been receiving ABA therapy services may continue to access ABA therapy services when medically necessary. During this period, members should work with their ABA therapy providers, as well as their managed care entity (MCE) or fee-for-service (FFS) care managers, to identify and transition to other appropriate services and supports.

The IHCP encourages ABA therapy providers to actively partner with members and their MCE or FFS care managers to develop individualized transition plans that ensure adequate supports are in place prior to the end of the transition period. For dates of service (DOS) on or after Oct. 1, 2026, the IHCP will no longer authorize or reimburse ABA therapy services for members 21 years of age and older.

## Expansion of eligible providers for procedure code 97153

The IHCP is expanding the list of allowable rendering practitioners for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT<sup>®1</sup>) code 97153 – *Adaptive behavior treatment by technician using an established plan, each 15 minutes*. For DOS on or after April 1, 2026, this service can be provided by practitioners with any of the following credentials:

- Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)
- Bachelor-level Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)
- Doctoral-level Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D)
- Master’s-level Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
- Health service provider in psychology (HSPP)

For DOS prior to April 1, 2026, the service was only reimbursable if rendered by an RBT.



The following billing guidelines apply:

- Claims for services rendered by RBTs:
  - ⇒ Must be billed with modifier U1.
  - ⇒ Rendering provider (other than school corporation) must be enrolled under specialty 625.
- Claims for services rendered by BCaBAs:
  - ⇒ Must be billed with modifier U2.
  - ⇒ Rendering provider (other than school corporation) must be enrolled under specialty 624.
- Claims for services rendered by BCBA-Ds, BCBA and HSPPs:
  - ⇒ Must be billed with modifier U3.
  - ⇒ Rendering provider (other than school corporation) must be enrolled under specialty 615.

Modifiers U1, U2 and U3 are for billing purposes only and should not be included on prior authorization (PA) requests for these services.

## Rate changes for individual (nongroup) ABA therapy services

To promote long-term sustainability of the ABA therapy benefit, the IHCP will implement a phased-in reduction to the maximum fee (max fee) rates for ABA therapy services. This approach is intended to support continued access to medically necessary ABA therapy services while ensuring that the benefit remains fiscally sustainable over time.

Effective for DOS on or after April 1, 2026, the IHCP will apply a 6% max fee rate reduction to all nongroup ABA therapy services. Beginning for DOS on or after April 1, 2027, the IHCP will implement an additional 4% max fee rate reduction, which will apply to all ABA therapy services procedure codes, including both individual and group services.

---

<sup>1</sup> CPT copyright 2026 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

Table 1 outlines the max fee rate adjustments for individual ABA therapy services procedure codes for each phase of implementation. The following section of the bulletin addresses corresponding rate changes for group ABA therapy services.

*Table 1 – Current and upcoming maximum rates for individual (nongroup) ABA therapy services, per 15-minute unit*

Procedure code	Modifier	Current Rate	Rate for DOS on or after April 1, 2026	Rate for DOS on or after April 1, 2027
97151	U2	\$21.87	\$20.56	\$19.74
97151	U3	\$27.63	\$25.97	\$24.93
97152	U1	\$17.06	\$16.04	\$15.39
97153	U1	\$17.06	\$16.04	\$15.39
97153	U2	N/A	\$16.04	\$15.39
97153	U3	N/A	\$16.04	\$15.39
97155	U2	\$21.85	\$20.54	\$19.72
97155	U3	\$27.63	\$25.97	\$24.93
97156	U2	\$21.87	\$20.56	\$19.74
97156	U3	\$28.23	\$26.54	\$25.47
0362T	U1	\$28.54	\$26.83	\$25.75
0373T	U1	\$28.54	\$26.83	\$25.75

**Billing and reimbursement changes for group ABA therapy services**

The IHCP encourages the use of group ABA therapy, as this modality supports development of social competence, peer interaction skills, communication and cooperative engagement in a structured therapeutic environment. To promote further availability and sustainability of group ABA therapy services, the IHCP has made adjustments to stratify group procedure codes and establish rate structures that better reflect group sizes and service delivery models.

Group ABA therapy service procedure codes (97154, 97157 and 97158) will have new rate tiers assigned for group sizes of two, three, and four to eight participants. For billing purposes, group size must be indicated using the appropriate modifier:

- Services delivered to a group size of **two** must be billed with modifier **U4**.
- Services delivered to a group size of **three** must be billed with modifier **U6**.
- Services delivered to a group size of **four** to eight must be billed with modifier **U8**.

Table 2 and Table 3 outline the applicable rates and required billing modifiers associated with each group size.

Note that modifiers U4, U6 and U8 in Table 3 are for billing purposes only and should not be included on PA requests for these services.

*Table 2 – Current maximum rates for Group ABA therapy services, per 15-minute unit, ending March 31, 2026*

Procedure code	Modifiers	Group size	Current rate
97154	U1	Any	\$4.87
97157	U2	Any	\$6.25
97157	U3	Any	\$7.89
97158	U2	Any	\$6.25
97158	U3	Any	\$7.89

*Table 3 – Upcoming maximum rates for group ABA therapy services, per 15-minute unit, effective for DOS on or after April 1, 2026, and April 1, 2027*

Procedure code	Modifiers	Group size	Rate for DOS on or after April 1, 2026	Rate for DOS on or after April 1, 2027
97154	U1 U4	2	\$9.21	\$8.84
97154	U1 U6	3	\$6.14	\$5.90
97154	U1 U8	4-8	\$4.61	\$4.43
97157	U2 U4	2	\$11.82	\$11.35
97157	U2 U6	3	\$7.88	\$7.57
97157	U2 U8	4-8	\$5.91	\$5.68
97157	U3 U4	2	\$14.93	\$14.33
97157	U3 U6	3	\$9.95	\$9.56
97157	U3 U8	4-8	\$7.46	\$7.16
97158	U2 U4	2	\$11.82	\$11.35
97158	U2 U6	3	\$7.88	\$7.57
97158	U2 U8	4-8	\$5.91	\$5.68
97158	U3 U4	2	\$14.93	\$14.33
97158	U3 U6	3	\$9.95	\$9.56
97158	U3 U8	4-8	\$7.46	\$7.16

### **Comprehensive ABA therapy**

Comprehensive ABA therapy services refer to an intensive, broad-based treatment model typically used with young children and requires 16 hours or more per week. This comprehensive model addresses multiple developmental and behavioral domains simultaneously, with the goal of improving overall functioning and reducing the core symptoms associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

#### ***Lifetime service allocation for comprehensive ABA therapy services***

Effective for DOS on or after April 1, 2026, eligible individuals may receive up to 4,000 hours (16,000 units) of comprehensive ABA therapy services over their lifetimes based on medical necessity, with up to 15 hours of medically necessary targeted ABA therapy services weekly following the utilization of 4,000 hours. If further comprehensive ABA therapy is found to be medically necessary, as determined through subsequent review by FSSA, the member's MCE, or a delegated entity of FSSA, it will be covered under EPSDT. These changes do not apply to ABA services provided by a school corporation.

***New modifier requirement for comprehensive ABA therapy services***

The IHCP will require the use of modifier **UA** on the procedure codes in Table 4 when providers (excluding school corporations) deliver the service as comprehensive ABA therapy. CPT codes 97155 and 97156 are unlisted in the table because those services are excluded from IHCP’s 4,000-hour lifetime comprehensive ABA therapy service allocation and, therefore, must not have modifier UA appended on either the PA request or the claim. Aside from the UA modifier, all other modifiers listed in Table 4 are billing-only modifiers and should be included only on the claim, but not on the PA request.

When a service is delivered as comprehensive ABA therapy, modifier **UA** must be used as follows:

- On the PA request, to indicate that the service is being requested as part of a comprehensive ABA therapy treatment plan  
AND
- On the claim, to ensure accurate adjudication and reimbursement

*Table 4 – Procedure codes and modifiers for comprehensive ABA therapy services subject to the 4,000-hour lifetime allocation*

Procedure code	Modifiers for PA request	Modifiers for Claim	Rendering provider type/specialty
97151	UA	U2 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97151	UA	U3 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
97152	UA	U1 UA	11/625 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (RBT)
97153	UA	U1 UA	11/625 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (RBT)
97153	UA	U2 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97153	UA	U3 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
97154	UA	U1 U4 UA	11/625 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (RBT)
97154	UA	U1 U6 UA	11/625 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (RBT)
97154	UA	U1 U8 UA	11/625 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (RBT)
97157	UA	U2 U4 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97157	UA	U2 U6 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97157	UA	U2 U8 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97157	UA	U3 U4 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
97157	UA	U3 U6 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
97157	UA	U3 U8 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
97158	UA	U2 U4 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97158	UA	U2 U6 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97158	UA	U2 U8 UA	11/624 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
97158	UA	U3 U4 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
97158	UA	U3 U6 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)

*Table 4 – Procedure codes and modifiers for comprehensive ABA therapy services subject to the 4,000-hour lifetime allocation*

Procedure code	Modifiers for PA request	Modifiers for Claim	Rendering provider type/specialty
97158	UA	U3 U8 UA	11/615 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
0362T	UA	U1 UA	11/625 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (RBT)
0373T	UA	U1 UA	11/625 – Behavioral Health/ ABA Therapist (RBT)

***IHCP Portal enhancement: Visibility into 4,000-hour lifetime comprehensive ABA therapy services allocation***

The IHCP will implement future IHCP Portal enhancements to support provider transparency and monitoring of the 4,000-hour lifetime allocation for comprehensive ABA therapy services. As part of this update, providers will be able to view the units utilized against a member’s lifetime comprehensive ABA therapy services allocation directly within the IHCP Portal. This information will be displayed on the *Limit Details* panel, accessible during eligibility verification. Although this functionality will assist providers to more effectively track remaining hours and support accurate treatment planning and billing, it should be noted that the information displayed is subject to claim billing and processing lags and should be used as an adjunctive tool only. Future updates and training videos will be forthcoming.

**Targeted ABA therapy services**

Unlike comprehensive ABA therapy, targeted ABA therapy services involve more focused and specific intervention, concentrating on a limited set of behaviors or skill areas, such as communication, social skills, self-help, or specific challenges such as sleep disruptions or aggression. Targeted ABA therapy services may be delivered for up to 15 hours per week. This approach is appropriate for individuals across age groups and is often used as a transition from comprehensive services or to address specific patterns. Targeted ABA therapy services are excluded from the 4,000-hour lifetime comprehensive ABA therapy services allocation and remain available, when medically necessary, to eligible members. PA requests and claims for services delivered as targeted ABA therapy should **not** include the UA modifier. Table 5 outlines the appropriate billing modifiers that should be included on the claim for targeted ABA therapy services.

*Table 5 – Targeted ABA therapy services procedure codes with billing modifiers*

Procedure code	Modifiers	Provider type/specialties
97151	U2	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97151	U3	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97152	U1	11/625 – ABA Therapist (RBT)
		12/120 – School Corporations
97153	U1	11/625 – ABA Therapist (RBT)
		12/120 – School Corporation

Table 5 – Targeted ABA therapy services procedure codes with billing modifiers

Procedure code	Modifiers	Provider type/specialties
97153	U2	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97153	U3	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97154	U1 U4	11/625 – ABA Therapist (RBT)
97154	U1 U6	11/625 – ABA Therapist (RBT)
97154	U1 U8	11/625 – ABA Therapist (RBT)
97157	U2 U4	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97157	U2 U6	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97157	U2 U8	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97157	U3 U4	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97157	U3 U6	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97157	U3 U8	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97158	U2 U4	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97158	U2 U6	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97158	U2 U8	11/624 – ABA Therapist (Bachelors)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97158	U3 U4	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97158	U3 U6	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
97158	U3 U8	11/615 – ABA Therapist (Masters/Doctoral or HSPP)
		12/120 – School Corporation
0362T	U1	11/625 – ABA Therapist (RBT)
		12/120 – School Corporations
0373T	U1	11/625 – ABA Therapist (RBT)
		12/120 – School Corporations

### Caregiver involvement

Caregiver participation is a critical component of reinforcing ABA therapy strategies, and providers are expected to actively support caregivers in learning and applying behavior-change techniques as part of the member's treatment plan. Effective April 1, 2026, the IHCP will require inclusion of caregiver coaching in all ABA therapy PA requests, allowing up to 18 hours over a standard six-month authorization period, or a proportionally reduced, medically necessary amount when the PA duration or total treatment hours are lower. The IHCP will apply special consideration for members whose caregiving circumstances differ from a traditional family setting, including youth in Department of Child Services (DCS) custody or foster care.

## RBT supervision

RBTs play a vital role in the delivery of ABA therapy services; however, they require consistent and appropriate clinical supervision to maintain treatment quality, uphold ethical practice standards and support ongoing professional development. Effective April 1, 2026, the IHCP will require a minimum of one hour of supervision by a BCBA or other IHCP-approved qualifying supervising clinician for every eight hours of technician-delivered ABA therapy services.

## Telehealth restrictions

Effective April 1, 2026, the IHCP will no longer allow CPT codes 97151, 97152, 97153, 97154 or 0373T to be billed with modifier 95 – *Synchronous telemedicine service rendered via real-time interactive audio and video telecommunications system* for telehealth service delivery. These codes represent assessment, protocol development and adaptive behavior treatment services that require direct, in-person interaction and real-time behavior observation to ensure treatment fidelity, member safety and clinically valid outcomes. This change supports higher treatment quality and aligns with evidence-based expectations for accurate functional assessment and effective behavior-change implementation.

## For more information

Updates will be made to the *Procedure Codes and Modifiers for Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy* table in *Behavioral Health Services Codes*, accessible from the [Code Sets](#) webpage at [in.gov/medicaid/providers](http://in.gov/medicaid/providers).

Please reach out to your [Provider Relations consultant](#) with any questions.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about this publication, please contact Customer Assistance at 800-457-4584.

## COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION

If you need additional copies of this publication, please download them from the [IHCP Bulletins](#) page of the IHCP provider website at [in.gov/medicaid/providers](http://in.gov/medicaid/providers).

## SIGN UP FOR IHCP EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

To receive email notices of IHCP publications, subscribe by clicking the blue subscription envelope or sign up from the [IHCP provider website](#) at [in.gov/medicaid/providers](http://in.gov/medicaid/providers).

