



June 21, 2021

SFY 2021 – DBH Guidance Document #2

Autism Concurrent Services

Background

On April 14, 2021, the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) issued guidance regarding concurrent billing of two or more autism services. The intent of the DBH Autism Concurrent Services Guidance Document was to clarify that two or more autism services *may not* be billed during the same fifteen (15) minute time increment (i.e., concurrently).

DBH has since received notice that this guidance document may not have reached the entirety of our intended audience.

Purpose

To ensure proper notification, DBH is reissuing the Autism Concurrent Services Guidance document. DBH is revising the effective date for this Guidance document. **The new effective date prohibiting billing of concurrent services is June 21, 2021.**

Providers who continued to bill for concurrent services between the original effective date of April 14, 2021 and June 21, 2021 will be held harmless for potential audit findings on concurrently billed services.

Guidance

Effective June 21, 2021, concurrent billing of autism services is not permitted as defined in 7 AAC 135.350(k)(6).

Questions regarding this guidance document may be directed to mapssunit@alaska.gov . In the Subject Line please note: Autism Concurrent Services Guidance



June 21, 2021

DBH Autism Concurrent Services Guidance Document (*updated June 21, 2021*)

7 AAC 135.350(k)(6) states that concurrent billing of two or more autism services is not allowable. When the current procedure code set was adopted after that regulation became effective, DBH issued guidance that stated that concurrent billing is allowable. The code sets below were impacted by that guidance.

- 97153 – adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician under direction of qualified health care professional to one patient
- 97155 – adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by qualified health care professional to one patient

DBH acknowledges autism providers have operated under that guidance since approximately January 2019 despite its conflict with the controlling regulation.

DBH seeks to resolve that conflict in favor of the regulation. This Autism Concurrent Services Guidance Document serves notice effective immediately that providers must adhere to 7 AAC 135.350(k)(6). Two or more autism services may not be billed during the same fifteen (15) minute time increment. The Department of Health and Social Services will no longer pay for concurrent autism services.

If you have questions, please contact the MPASS Unit at mpassunit@alaska.gov. In the subject line please note Autism Concurrent Services Guidance Document.

The Division looks forward to a continued partnership with your agency to ensure fulfillment of federal and state regulations.

NOTE: This guidance document is intended to replace the original DBH Autism Concurrent Services Guidance Document originally issued April 14, 2021.