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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Alliance Providers and Specialists

**From:** Kathleen McCarthy, Provider Services Director

**Date:** October 27, 2014

**Subject:** New Benefit for Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder

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As of September 15, 2014, the Alliance began administering Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services to individuals under the age of 21 who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. BHT includes Applied Behavioral Analysis and other evidence based services.

A physician or child-adolescent psychologist may diagnose ASD when excesses and/or deficits of behaviors that significantly interfere with home or community activities are evident. These can include: poor understanding of social relationships, significant language and communication problems, high need for sameness and predictability, impaired thinking abilities, organizational problems, and uneven patterns of development.

**Members currently receiving BHT from a regional center will continue to receive services from the regional center at this time. All new referrals for BHT will be managed by the Alliance's behavioral health vendor, Beacon Health Strategies (Beacon).**

The state is currently defining a transition plan for cases being followed by the regional centers. Please refer any beneficiaries who are not actively in services with a regional center, and who meet the diagnostic criteria, to Beacon at (855) 765-9700.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please call your Provider Services Representative at (800) 700-3874, ext. 5504.