



PROVIDER ALERT

THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

May 20, 2015

Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) offer a short-term intervention available to eligible children and adolescents under 21 years old who are returning from or in jeopardy of being placed in a residential treatment facility or higher-level group home. By providing behavioral treatment services in the natural home setting environment, Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) help participants learn new adaptive behaviors and skills to replace dysfunctional or dangerous ones., TBS services are intended to be a **short term** intensive intervention with the goal of teaching the natural caregivers specific skills, and to support and retain full responsibility for the behavioral management of the youth by the natural caregivers. Conditions which might merit concurrent authorization of TBS services beyond the initial 60 days include a change in caregiver, requiring a new caretaker to learn the behavioral plan, a recent hospitalization of the youth, or new dangerous symptoms emerging which are amenable to a behavioral intervention and require a modification of the current plan.

Parents/legal guardians are expected to be active participants in TBS sessions, learning and practicing interventions with assistance from the TBS staff. TBS staff are not caretakers; continued authorization will require clear evidence and documentation of skills transfer to caregivers. Time limited concurrent TBS services will be approved when there is evidence of on-going improvement in the caregiver's ability to implement the behavioral interventions, but the full goals have not yet been met. It is the expectation that TBS providers change behavioral plans and interventions or terminate services in the face of a lack of progress.

To support a resiliency model of returning to the least restrictive level of care, and in order to assist with the monitoring and appropriate usage of these services, the previously approved discharge criteria will be utilized. These criteria will not change the process of seeking initial TBS services, nor the continuation of ongoing medically necessary services.

Please refer to the ValueOptions Provider Manual (and web link) for further details on TBS Medical Necessity Criteria.



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TBS Services and Providers

Medicaid reimburses three types of Therapeutic Behavioral Services, each of which is delivered by certain provider types as detailed below:

- 1) *Initial Assessment & Development of Behavioral Plan for TBS (96150 procedure code):*
Providers must be enrolled with Medicaid and registered with ValueOptions as one of the following provider types to receive reimbursement for this service:
 - a. Certified Counselor (provider type CC)
 - b. Nurse Psychotherapist (provider type 24)
 - c. Social Worker (provider type 94)
 - d. Early and Periodic Screen Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) providers (provider type 51).

- 2) *Reassessment and Development of New Behavior Plan for TBS (96151 procedure code):*
These services may be administered ONLY by a licensed TBS Provider, EPSDT – Therapeutic Behavioral Services (provider type 51).

- 3) *EPSDT Health & Behavior Intervention (96152 procedure code):*
These services may only be reimbursed to an EPSDT – Therapeutic Behavioral Services Provider (provider type 51) or Local Education Agencies/Local Lead Agencies Provider (provider type 91).

Rates and Units of Service

All Therapeutic Behavioral Services are reimbursed using 15-minute increments, at the rates specified on the Public Behavioral Health System fee schedule available here: http://maryland.valueoptions.com/provider/claims_finance/PMHS-Reimbursement-Schedule.pdf