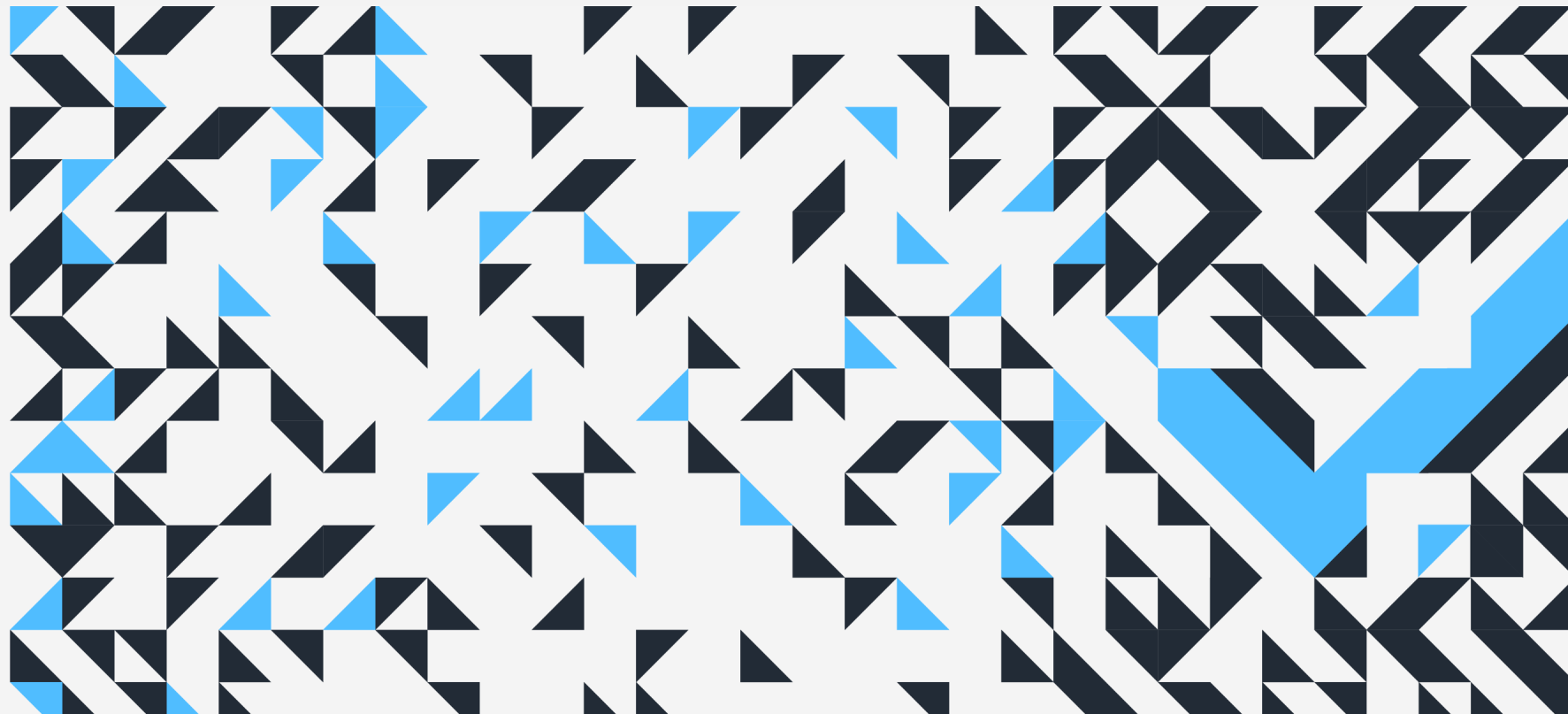


# Applied Behavior Analysis Rate Study: Stakeholder Meeting #2

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

State of Hawai`i Med-QUEST Division (MQD)



# Agenda

1	2	3
<b>Project Overview</b>	<b>Staffing Approach and Staff Retention</b>	<b>Service Delivery</b>



# Project Overview

# ABA Rate Study Project Overview



## Project Background:

- The State of Hawai`i Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is conducting an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services rate study for its Medicaid program. The project will provide better insight into the current costs associated with service delivery and staffing requirements.
- MQD intends to align the ABA rate study efforts with its on-going Medicaid home-and-community based services (HCBS) rate studies, which were also requested by the legislature (Phase I HCBS rate study report was submitted by MQD before the 2023 legislative session).
- This work is in compliance with Hawai`i State Legislature's House Resolution #207 passed in 2023, which requests the Department of Human Services to conduct an ABA rate study and "submit a report of its findings and recommendations on appropriate reimbursement rate increases".<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Source: SCR 132 - Requesting the Department of Human Services' Med-quest Division to Take Steps Necessary to Ensure That Adequate Provider Rates are Established for Applied Behavior Analysis Services. State of Hawai'i: Department Of Human Services. 2023. Retrieved from: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=SCR&billnumber=132&year=2023](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SCR&billnumber=132&year=2023)

# ABA Rate Study Overview



## The Hawai`i ABA Rate Study includes the following services:

- 97151 - Behavior Identification Assessment
- 91752 - Behavior Identification Supporting Assessment - *observational assessment of behavioral functioning*
- 0362T - Behavior Identification Supporting Assessment - *exposure behavioral follow-up assessment*
- 97153 - Direct Treatment by Protocol
- 97154 - Group Treatment by Protocol
- 97155 - Direct Treatment with Protocol Modification
- 97156 - Family Training
- 97157 - Multiple-Family Training
- 97158 - Group Treatment with Protocol Modification
- 0373T - Direct Treatment of Severe Maladaptive Behavior

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As a result of the rate study, we will develop a range for “comparison” payment rates for MQD and the legislature’s consideration. Any funding increases will need to be appropriated by the state legislature in order to be implemented. If approved, final comparison rates will be published for the use of providers and MCOs to consider when negotiating managed care contracts, and for MQD and other stakeholders to use when evaluating changes to overall funding.

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# Staffing Approach and Staff Retention



# Hiring and Recruiting ABA Staff

- Which are the most challenging ABA staff to recruit and hire?
  - Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®)
  - Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral® (BCBA-D®)
  - Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst® (BCaBA®)
  - Registered Behavior Technician® (RBT®)
- What hiring and retention strategies have you tried? Are any of them non-financial?
- If someone leaves your organization, why have staff stated they are leaving your organization? Does someone that separated from your organization typically stay within the ABA industry?
- Describe any recent wage changes, by ABA staff type.
- Are most ABA staff offered benefits (e.g., healthcare, vision, dental)? If so, do most ABA staff take-up those benefits?

# Supervision Approach



## Case supervision requirements referenced from QI-2301 FFS 23-01:

*“Case supervision, which is comprised of both direct and indirect hours. While responsive to individual member needs, case supervision generally consists of at least two hours for every 10 hours of service with at least one of the two hours being direct supervision. Direct supervision must always be provided at least 5% of all BCaBA and RBT hours.”<sup>(1)</sup>*

### Supervision:

- How many RBTs or BCaBAs does a BCBA supervise?
- To what extent does supervision time vary by the type of staff being supervised (e.g., RBT or BCaBA)?
- Describe the supervision requirements for services provided via telehealth. Does it differ by payor type?

### Staff Turnover:

- To what extent does staff turnover vary between RBTs and other ABA staff?
- On average, how many years of experience does an RBT have? BCaBA? Has that changed over the past year?

<sup>1</sup>Source: QI-2301 FFS 23-01: Coverage of Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) For Treatment of Children Under 21 Years of Age With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). *Department of Human Services*. January 13, 2023. Retrieved from: [https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301\\_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20\(part%201\)%20-%20signed.pdf](https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20(part%201)%20-%20signed.pdf)



# Service Delivery

# Service Setting / Location



**Some ABA codes/services are approved to be delivered via telehealth, and to be provided by a licensed provider in compliance with QI Health Plan and State Agencies requirements**

## **For Discussion:**

- QI will only pay for telehealth ABA services delivered via a licensed ABA practitioner, is that the same for other payors? If not, describe the impact it has on your service delivery approach.
- Do any payors (e.g., managed care plans or commercial) pay differently for Telehealth services?

**ABA service recipients may receive services in their homes, or other community settings as applicable to optimize overall treatment outcomes.**

## **For Discussion:**

- Describe the typical staffing and supervisory approach for services provided outside of clinical settings.
- To what extent do staff use their own vehicles when providing services outside of clinical settings?
  - If so, are direct care staff reimbursed for using their own vehicle?
  - If so, please describe mileage costs or other transportation costs paid to direct care employees.
- Do any payors (e.g., managed care plans or commercial) pay differently for services provided outside of clinical settings (e.g., clinical vs community rate)?



# Concurrent Billing

According to the Association for Behavior Analysis International, payors recognize concurrent billing of 97153/97155<sup>(1)</sup>:

	97153 - Direct Treatment by Protocol		97155 - Direct Treatment with Protocol Modification		
<b>Service Provider Billing Modifier</b>	HP – Doctoral / HO – Master’s	HN – Bachelor’s / HM – less than Bachelor’s	HP - Doctoral	HO – Master’s	HN - Bachelor’s
<b>Supervisor</b>	N/A	BCBA-D / BCBA	N/A	N/A	BCBA-D / BCBA
<b>Service Description</b>	“Administered by treatment team member under the direction of a physician or other qualified health care professional, face-to-face with one member” <sup>(2)</sup>		“Direct treatment with protocol modification administered by physician or other qualified health care professional, which may include simultaneous direction of a treatment team member, face-to-face with one member” <sup>(2)</sup>		
<b>Notes</b>	“Encompasses a written description of procedures for implementing a specified procedure addressing a member’s assessment or treatment goal(s) and implementation of the procedures with the member.” <sup>(2)</sup>		“This code is reported when a qualified provider conducts 1:1 direct treatment with the member to observe changes in behavior or troubleshoot treatment protocols; or when the qualified provider joins the member and the technician during a treatment team member in implementing a new or modified treatment protocol” <sup>(2)</sup>		

## For Discussion:

- For HP/HO billed services, are RBTs also generally providing direct services at the same time?
- To what extent does the service delivery of 97153 and 97155 overlap?

<sup>1</sup>Source: 2019 CPT® I Codes for Applied Behavior Analysis: Adoption, Interpretation, and Next Steps. *Association for Behavior Analysis International*. May 26, 2019. Retrieved from: [https://www.abainternational.org/ABAIUploads/Practice/ABAI\\_Fisher\\_and\\_Kornack\\_Presentation\\_ABAI\\_2019.pdf](https://www.abainternational.org/ABAIUploads/Practice/ABAI_Fisher_and_Kornack_Presentation_ABAI_2019.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Source: QI-2301 FFS 23-01: Coverage of Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) For Treatment of Children Under 21 Years of Age With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). *Department of Human Services*. January 13, 2023. Retrieved from: [https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301\\_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20\(part%201\)%20-%20signed.pdf](https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20(part%201)%20-%20signed.pdf)

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# Concurrent Staffing



## 0362T – Behavior Identification Supporting Assessment, and 0373T – Direct Treatment of Severe Maladaptive Behavior, require the following<sup>(1)</sup>:

- Administered by BCBA-D or BCBA who is on site
- Assistance of 2+ technicians
- Environment customized to patient behavior

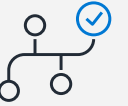
### For Discussion:

- To what extent does the billing for these services vary by payor (Medicaid vs commercial insurance)? For example, do certain payors allow for the billing of both ABA staff?

<sup>1</sup>Source: QI-2301 FFS 23-01: Coverage of Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) For Treatment of Children Under 21 Years of Age With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). *Department of Human Services*. January 13, 2023. Retrieved from: [https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301\\_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20\(part%201\)%20-%20signed.pdf](https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20(part%201)%20-%20signed.pdf)

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# Concurrent Staffing (Continued)



## For services that require one technician administering the service under the direction of a BCBA-D or BCBA provider:

- What is the typical time of case supervision provided to technicians per a 15-minute unit?
- To what extent do technicians (RBT and BCaBA) bill for administering these assessments?
- To what extent do BCBA-D or BCBA use the HP / HO modifiers to bill for services where only case supervision was provided?
- To what extent do these scenarios result in concurrent billing for one unit of service provided? Does this vary by payor (e.g., Medicaid vs commercial insurance)?

# Indirect (Non-Client Facing) Time



**Non-client facing time is the indirect care time spent by staff providing necessary service-related tasks such as case planning and documentation with no client(s) present**

- For time-based services/assessments, what is the approximate amount of indirect time per 15-minutes of direct time?
  - Behavior Identification Assessment and Supporting Assessment
  - Direct and Group Treatment by Protocol
  - Direct and Group Treatment with Protocol Modification
  - Direct Treatment of Severe Maladaptive Behavior
  - Family Training
- For consideration:
  - Variation by the provider type administering the service (e.g., RBT providing a services vs a BCBA)
  - Group size
  - Services provided with more than one team member

# Project Next Steps

# Project Materials and Next Steps



**Materials for ABA Rate Study will be posted on the MQD project website:**

<https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/plans-providers/fee-for-service/fee-schedules.html>

## **Next Steps:**

- Milliman to compile and analyze survey data received
- Survey results will be compared to stakeholder feedback
- Develop comparison rate calculations and other payor rate benchmarking for stakeholder meeting discussion
- Conduct an ABA provider meeting to walk through the draft ABA comparison rates on **December 4, 2023 from 12:00pm-1:30pm HST**
- MQD to submit the ABA rate study and budget estimates to the State legislature for their consideration

**ABA Rate Study email address for questions and feedback: [HI.ABA.RateStudy@milliman.com](mailto:HI.ABA.RateStudy@milliman.com)**



# Limitations

*The information contained in this presentation has been prepared for the State of Hawai`i Med-QUEST (MQD) for the purpose of facilitating the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) provider stakeholder meeting with MQD, and is not appropriate for other purposes.*

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# Thank you

# Appendix: Service Definition

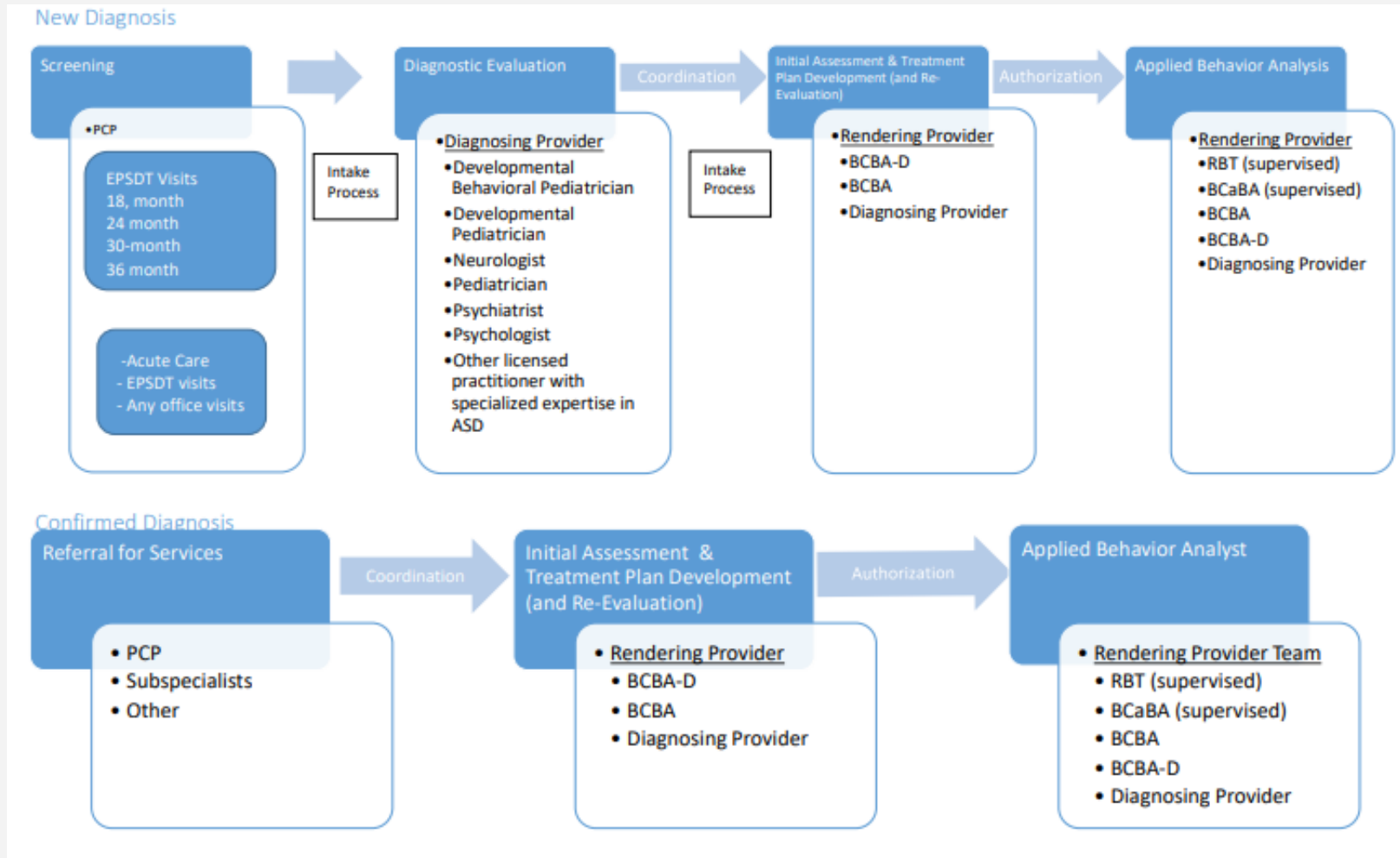
# CMS Requirements for ABA Services



*Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance clarifying Medicaid coverage of services for children with ASD pursuant to section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act **for the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit is unchanged. Under section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act, state Medicaid programs must cover medically necessary services for members under 21 years of age, including those diagnosed with ASD. Therefore, Hawaii's QI health plans must continue to comply with the full range of EPSDT duties and requirements. These duties include providing medically necessary Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) treatment modalities, which include ABA, for children under 21 years of age. QI health plans shall coordinate and promote continuity of care and ensure that members receive all medically necessary services.***

Source: QI-2301 FFS 23-01: Coverage of Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) For Treatment of Children Under 21 Years of Age With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). *Department of Human Services*. January 13, 2023. Retrieved from: [https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301\\_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20\(part%201\)%20-%20signed.pdf](https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20(part%201)%20-%20signed.pdf)

# Accessing ABA Services Overview



Source: QI-2301 FFS 23-01: Coverage of Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) For Treatment of Children Under 21 Years of Age With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). *Department of Human Services*. January 13, 2023. Retrieved from: [https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301\\_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20\(part%201\)%20-%20signed.pdf](https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2023/QI-2301_FFS%2023-01%20&%20Attachments%20A-B-C%20(part%201)%20-%20signed.pdf)