



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
Bureau of Autism Services**

**Adult Autism Waiver**

**Provider Frequently Asked Questions**

**What are the requirements to receive services from this waiver?**

In order to be eligible for this waiver a person must meet the following requirements:

- Live in Pennsylvania
- Be 21 or older
- Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, which includes a diagnosis of Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD-NOS), Asperger Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder or Retts Disorder
- Meet Medical Assistance financial eligibility
- Meet the Intermediate Care Facility level of care

\*\* IQ is not an eligibility criterion for this waiver \*\*

**How do I become a Provider?**

To become an Autism Waiver provider please contact the Bureau of Autism Services at 1-866-539-7689, and press one for English, then five for the provider mailbox. Leave a message with your name, agency, phone number and email address and you will receive an electronic 'Provider Packet' which includes necessary links, information and instructions on how to become an enrolled provider.

Requirements for enrollment as an Adult Autism Waiver Provider include:

- Be enrolled in PROMISe as a Medical Assistance Provider
- Complete an Autism Waiver Provider Application
- Complete an Autism Waiver Supplemental Agreement
- Submit copies of applicable licenses/credentials to the Bureau of Autism Services
- Meet training requirements for the service(s) you intend to provide

## **What are the Training Requirements?**

**SPeCTRUM: Supporting Persons Centered Training, Resources, Understanding and Mentorship.** This training course is designed to be used by individuals and agencies which provide services to adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The nine class sections will address the multiple needs of adults with ASD.

There is also the option of the course being supplied to you via CD ROM. There will be updated trainings provided in the future. Some services have additional training requirements.

## **Who has to complete the SPeCTRUM training?**

Prior to becoming a provider for the Adult Autism Waiver, a minimum of one staff person must have completed this training. Additional staff can be trained at any time. All staff working directly with waiver participants must complete training before providing services for this waiver. Please note that some services have additional training requirements. (Exception: Behavioral Support Specialists do not need to complete SPeCTRUM training but are encouraged to do so. Specialized training will be required and made available for BSS providers)

## **How are the services provided with this waiver the same and different from other similar services?**

Some of the terms for services are very similar to what is used in other waivers, so please review the document titled: "Autism Waiver Service Definitions." There you will find definitions for each service in this waiver. Provider Qualifications can be viewed on the document titled: "BAS Adult Autism Waiver Provider Qualification Requirements." This material and the entire "Provider Packet" can be provided to you by request by calling 1-866-539-7689, press 1 for English and then press 5 for providers.

## **What services are offered under the waiver?**

In addition to Supports Coordination, services include:

- Assistive Technology
- Behavioral Specialist Services
- Community Inclusion
- Community Transition Services
- Day Habilitation
- Environmental Modifications
- Family Counseling
- Family Training
- Job Assessment and Finding
- Nutritional Consultation
- Residential Habilitation
- Respite
- Supported Employment
- Temporary Crisis Services
- Therapies
- Transitional Work Services

## **What are the rates for reimbursement and how were they determined?**

The Bureau of Autism Services engaged Mercer Government Human Services Consulting (Mercer) to develop rates for the Autism waiver services. The first step in developing the fee schedule was to outline the rate-setting process, which included employee wages, adjustments for employee-related expenses (e.g. employee benefits, insurance), productivity (percentage of an employee's time that is potentially billable), mileage and transportation expenses (when included in the service), and other expenses (e.g. capital, supplies, administrative overhead). Mercer also reviewed rate-setting components and assumptions utilized in other states. The rates were developed to reflect productivity factors for each service to reflect the amount of time direct care workers would be providing services versus time spent on non-billable activities. Based on discussions between BAS and Mercer, BAS selected a statewide fee schedule for the initial program years. Once sufficient data are available, BAS intends to survey providers to gain better sense of costs associated with providing their services to the enrolled population. Once the survey and utilization data is collected and evaluated, BAS will review the current fee schedule and adjust as necessary. A rate table will be provided in the "Provider Pack."

## **How will I bill and be reimbursed?**

All payments will be processed through PROMISe. Per the Department of Public Welfare's website "PROMISe™ (Provider Reimbursement and Operations Management Information Systems) is the new HIPAA-compliant claims processing and management information system implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) in March 2004. PROMISe™ is a single system that processes human service claims and manages information for numerous Commonwealth human services programs." For more information on PROMISe™ please feel free to view [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/promise/omappromise.asp](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/promise/omappromise.asp).

Though the Bureau of Autism Services will provide technical assistance and support if needed, no reimbursement payments will be made through the Bureau at any time. Providers will be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis.

***For more information on the Autism Waiver please visit the Bureau of Autism website at [www.autisminpa.org](http://www.autisminpa.org)***

***or email us at [ra-ODPAutismWaiver@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-ODPAutismWaiver@state.pa.us)***