



# Behavioral Health Treatment for Autism

As of September 15, 2014, Medi-Cal plans are responsible for providing Behavioral Health Therapy (BHT) services to individuals under the age of 21 who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis.

The **Alameda Alliance's** Behavioral Health Benefits Manager, **Beacon Health Strategies** now manages this benefit for beneficiaries. All new referrals will go to Beacon. The state is currently defining the continued care process for members being followed by the Regional Centers. Please refer any beneficiaries that meet the eligibility criteria and are not already being served through a regional center to Beacon at **855-856-0577**.

## Role of Primary Care

Often a pediatrician, physician or child-adolescent psychologist will make the initial diagnosis if excesses and/or deficits of behaviors that significantly interfere with home or community activities are detected.

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. The role of the PCP is particularly important in securing an ASD diagnosis as well as providing medical follow-up for the commonly co-occurring medical disorders that complicate treatment.

### Beacon Health Strategies

855.765.9703

TTY: 800.735.2929

Monday – Friday

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

[www.beaconhealthstrategies.com](http://www.beaconhealthstrategies.com)

## How Beacon Can Help

1. Medi-Cal beneficiaries are eligible for coordination of behavioral health services. Beacon Health Strategies in partnership with participating health plans will help coordinate these services by offering support and guidance to pediatricians/primary care physicians serving members with Behavioral Health needs.
2. Primary care physicians can gain access to consultation and coordination services conveniently through any of our existing systems, including directly calling the designated health plan Customer Service line, submitting by fax a simple referral form or contacting our care managers integrated within the primary health plan case management team.
3. Primary Care Physicians can access variety of services for patients with behavioral health needs, including psychiatric consultations for treatment decisions, outpatient BH referral and access, assessment and triage for patients at risk, care management, behavioral health treatment (BHT) for Autism Spectrum Disorders and psychological evaluations for prescreening of medical procedures.
4. The **Alameda Alliance's** Behavioral Health Benefits Manager, **Beacon Health Strategies** will manage and coordinate service for these Medi-Cal beneficiaries. All requests and referrals for behavioral health services can be submitted to Beacon, or beneficiaries can be directed to contact Beacon's Customer Service Department at **855-856-0577**.