



Virginia's Autism Insurance Law



Effective for plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2012

- Requires state-regulated large group health plans and the state employee health plan to provide coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for individuals between the ages of 2 and 6 (the bill does not preclude the extension of coverage for individuals age 7 and up)
- Coverage of treatments will be provided when prescribed, provided, or ordered for an individual diagnosed with autism by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist who determines the care to be medically necessary
- The bill does not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program (IEP), or an individualized services plan
- Health insurance companies would be required to provide coverage of the following:
 - Diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder - meaning medically necessary assessments, evaluations, including neuropsychological evaluations, genetic testing, or other testing to determine whether an individual has one or more autism spectrum disorders
 - Behavioral health treatments- meaning professional, counseling, and guidance services and treatment programs, including applied behavior analysis (ABA), when provided or supervised by a board certified behavior analyst who shall be licensed by the board of medicine, that are necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual
 - Pharmacy care
 - Psychiatric care
 - Psychological care
 - Therapeutic care - meaning services provided by licensed or certified speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, or clinical social workers
 - Coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) is subject to an annual maximum of \$35,000

For additional information please visit www.virginiaautismproject.org or www.autismvotes.org/virginia or contact vapnova@gmail.com or judith.ursitti@autismspeaks.org.