

AMENDMENT NO. 18-1

TO THE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

MEBA MEDICAL AND BENEFITS PLAN

At their February 23, 2017 meeting, the Trustees of the MEBA Medical and Benefits Plan (the “Plan”) amended the Plan’s Rules and Regulations to modify the Plan’s definition of “Legally Qualified Physician” and to add coverage for services related to the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders, effective June 1, 2016.

1. Article VI, Section 2(d) shall be amended to read as follows (*new language shown in bold italics*):

(d) ***“Licensed Qualified Provider”*** means only a person who is ***a duly certified and licensed (1) physician, chiropractor, psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, podiatrist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, licensed midwife, speech-language pathologist, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician’s assistant or any other licensed and certified health care provider; (2) with respect to the coverage of nervous and mental disorders, any mental health practitioner who is either licensed or certified by the State in which he/she practices. All providers must operate within the scope of their license for a benefit to be covered and some benefits are subject to maximum visit limits.*** For purposes of Section 3(e)(27), a duly licensed Doctor of Optometry is deemed to be a ***Licensed Qualified Provider*** when acting within the scope of his/her license.

2. All references to “Legally Qualified Physician” shall be replaced with “Licensed Qualified Provider.”

3. Article VI, Section 2 shall be amended to add the following new subsections (f) and (g) at the end thereof:

(f) ***“Applied Behavior Analysis”*** means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.

(g) ***“Autism Spectrum Disorders”*** means a range of conditions characterized by challenges or deficits with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communications, as well as by unique strengths and differences caused by different combinations of genetic and environmental influences.

4. Article VI, Section 3(e)(9) shall be amended to read as follows (*new language shown in bold italics*):

(9) physiotherapy ***and physical therapy*** under the supervision of a Licensed Qualified Provider, and chiropractic treatment, but not to exceed a combined maximum of

40 visits in a 24 month period (disregarding for purpose of the maximum any visits for physiotherapy *or physical therapy* treatment due to a stroke, multiple sclerosis, or a radical mastectomy).

5. Article VI, Section 3(e)(10) shall be amended to read as follows (*new language shown in bold italics*):

(10) speech therapy by a qualified speech-*language pathologist* to restore or rehabilitate any speech loss or impairment caused by injury or disease except a mental, psychoneurotic or personality disorder or by surgery for that injury or disease. In the case of congenital defect, speech therapy expenses will be covered, provided that corrective surgery for the defect either has been performed or is not appropriate.

6. Article VI, Section 3(e) shall be amended to add the following paragraphs at the end thereof:

(36) provide medically necessary coverage for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders for Dependent children under age 7. These treatments may include necessary assessments, evaluations and testing to determine whether an individual has one or more Autism Spectrum Disorders.

(37) coverage of behavioral health treatments such as professional, counseling, guidance services and treatment programs, including Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) when provided by a board certified behavior analyst licensed by the applicable state board of medicine. The ABA services are subject to an annual maximum of \$35,000 and are for Dependent children under age 7 necessary to develop, maintain, or restore the functioning of the Dependent child.

(38) coverage of outpatient speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy for Dependent children under age 7 who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder when prescribed and provided by a Licensed Qualified Provider.

Adopted in Principle: February 23, 2017

Effective Date: June 1, 2016

Language Approved: February 21, 2018



H. Marshall Ainley, Chairman

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Edward Hanley, Secretary