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**CHAPTER 4: APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS**

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**OVERVIEW**

The Louisiana Department of Health established coverage of applied behavior analysis (ABA) under the Medicaid State Plan for recipients under the age of 21. ABA therapy is the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior. ABA-based therapies teach skills through the use of behavioral observation and reinforcement or prompting to teach each step of targeted behavior. ABA-based therapies are based on reliable evidence and are not experimental.

This provider manual chapter specifies the requirements for reimbursement for services provided by an enrolled, licensed practitioner and provides direction for provision of these services to eligible recipients in the State of Louisiana.

These regulations are established to assure minimum compliance under the law, equity among those served, provision of authorized services, and proper fund disbursement. Should a conflict exist between manual chapter material and pertinent laws or regulations governing the Louisiana Medicaid Program, the latter will take precedence.

ABA services are provided through Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).