

## **Autism spectrum disorder treatment provided by therapy and behavioral health providers**

In accordance with the requirements of the federally mandated comprehensive and preventive child health program, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services (EPSDT), Amerigroup Community Care is required to furnish all medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions for Medicaid members from birth through age 20.

NJ FamilyCare has expanded its existing autism spectrum disorder (ASD) services to include a combination of therapies, each targeting a different set of skills that will support a child's development, and will reimburse for The Developmental, Individual Difference, Relationship-Based Model (DIR<sup>®</sup>) therapies.

### **What is DIR?**

The DIR provides the foundational framework for understanding human development and the critical role of social-emotional development. This development begins at [birth] and continues throughout the remainder of the lifespan. It allows providers to understand how each person individually perceives and interacts with the environment that surrounds them. The key components are how emotional connections and established relationships contribute to the individual's unique development; additionally, understanding how an individual interacts and develops their relationships can be used to promote healthy development and increased fulfillment of the child's potential.

**Amerigroup is requesting that licensed therapy and behavioral health providers participating with Amerigroup or the Therapy Network of New Jersey (TNNJ) consider offering DIR therapies to members diagnosed with ASD by obtaining the necessary specialized training and endorsement.**

### **How can I obtain training and endorsement?**

A DIR<sup>®</sup> Certificate can be obtained in a short amount of time, and many courses are offered online. Additionally, courses may qualify for professional continuing education (CE) credits for licensed providers.

Please contact one of the following DIR certification program resources for enrollment information.

#### **Interdisciplinary Council on Development and Learning (ICDL)**

ICDL offers a fast-track program for professionals to begin working as an Advanced level professional in as little as four months. Additionally, courses may qualify for continuing education (CE) credits. Call **301-304-8834**, email [dirfloortimettraining@icdl.com](mailto:dirfloortimettraining@icdl.com), or visit <https://www.icdl.com/courses/education> for a DIRFloortime<sup>®</sup> Advanced Certificate or DIRFloortime<sup>®</sup> Expert Certificate, or to become a certified autism specialist.

#### **Developmental Models in Autism Intervention (DMAI)**

<https://provider.amerigroup.com/NJ>

The College of Education and Human Services, Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Literacy Education at Montclair University offers this 15 credit post-baccalaureate program. Courses are offered during the evenings and summers to meet the needs of working students, and individuals may complete the certificate program in just one year. Call **973-655-6685**, email [costag@montclair.edu](mailto:costag@montclair.edu), or visit <https://www.montclair.edu/teaching-and-learning/academic-programs/developmental-models-of-autism-intervention-certificate/> for enrollment information.

### **Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)**

Licensed providers and behavioral analysts may become ESDM certified by the ESDM training program at the UC Davis MIND Institute. Contact [hs-esdmtraining@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hs-esdmtraining@ucdavis.edu) or visit <https://www.esdm.co/> for certification information.

### **New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health (NJ-AIMH)**

The NJ-AIMH is the sole provider of the NJ-AIMH Competencies and Endorsement<sup>®</sup> system in New Jersey. NJ-AIMH endorsement recognizes and documents the development of infant and family professionals within an organized system of culturally sensitive, relationship-based, infant mental health learning, and work experiences. Completion of the endorsement exam is required for category III infant mental health specialist and category IV clinical mentor endorsements. Call **848-216-1086** or visit <https://nj-aimh.org/endorsement/>.

### **Profectum**

Foundational Capacities for Development (FCD<sup>™</sup>) certificate programs for professionals offer advanced in-depth training in integrated, multidisciplinary approaches to working with individuals and families with special needs. A qualified healthcare provider (QHP) is a Profectum Certificate Level 2 (CL2) course certificate holder and has a license in their field. Profectum is currently in the process of developing an expedited process for non-certificate holders and CL1 certificate holders to achieve a CL2 in order to participate in NJ FamilyCare. Please call **973-531-4376** or visit <https://profectum.org/> for information.

### **International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES)**

IBCCES provides research-based, position-specific training, and certification programs to help therapists, healthcare providers, and support staff to better understand individuals with cognitive disorders, as well as earn specialized credentials and professional recognition. IBCCES offers a number of certification programs for providers such as SLPs, OTs, mental health professionals, behavior therapists, and other professionals who work with autistic individuals or individuals with other cognitive disorders. The **Certified Autism Specialist<sup>™</sup>(CAS)** and **Autism Certificate (AC)** certifications are for professionals who are responsible for providing services or support to individuals who have autism. Contact IBCCES at **877-717-6543**, email [info@ibcces.org](mailto:info@ibcces.org), or visit <https://ibcces.org/autismcertifications>.

### **New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health (NJ-AIMH)**

The NJ-AIMH is the sole provider of the NJ-AIMH Competencies and Endorsement<sup>®</sup> system in New Jersey. All professionals who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents/caregivers, and meet the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation requirements can apply for endorsement. For information, call **973-655-6685**, email [endorsement@nj-aimh.org](mailto:endorsement@nj-aimh.org), or visit [www.nj-aimh.org](http://www.nj-aimh.org).

### What if I need additional information?

*DMAHS Newsletter Vol. 30 No. 17* at [www.njmmis.com](http://www.njmmis.com) provides additional information about the provision of DIR including billing, reimbursement, and service guidelines.

To enroll with Amerigroup as a DIR<sup>®</sup> provider or for any other questions, please contact Michael Juros at [Michael.Juros@Amerigroup.com](mailto:Michael.Juros@Amerigroup.com) or Susanne Ardito at [Susanne.Ardito@Amerigroup.com](mailto:Susanne.Ardito@Amerigroup.com).

### What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your assigned Provider Experience associate or call Provider Services at **800-454-3730** for Medicaid.



**Email is the quickest and most direct way to receive important information from Amerigroup Community Care.**

To start receiving email from us (including some sent in lieu of fax or mail), submit your information using the QR code to the right or via our online form (<https://bit.ly/3lKw9vg>).

