



## The Autism Insurance Resource Center

UMass Medical School, E.K. Shriver Center

[www.massairc.org](http://www.massairc.org) 774-455-4056

### A Resource for Consumers, Providers, Educators, and Employers on Issues Related to Medical Insurance for Autism Treatment

- Information and technical assistance by phone/e-mail
- Assistance with issues related to accessing coverage for treatment, including MassHealth questions and issues.
- Access to documents including Legislation, FAQ's, Agency Bulletins, etc.
- Webinars and Trainings on Insurance Laws and Related Topics


## Who We Help

- **Families** – information, technical assistance, support applying for MassHealth, resources, troubleshooting.
- **Providers** – information, technical assistance, specialized trainings.
- **Clinicians** – information, technical assistance, focused trainings
- **State Agencies, Regulators, Legislators** –information, feedback, aggregate data


## Coverage for Communication Devices

- Most Private Insurance does not cover communication devices.
- MassHealth covers dedicated communication devices.
- MassHealth is supposed to cover non-dedicated communication devices for children with autism. 3 devices issued in FY20 – (Autism Commission Data)

## Accessing Treatment

- Type of Insurance
  - Diagnosis
  - Medical Necessity
  - Provider Availability
  - Affordability
- 

## How We Help Schools and Families

- Information
  - Training
  - Technical Assistance
  - Resources
  - Troubleshooting
- 

## COVID-19 and Telehealth Resources


- **Mobile Crisis Intervention/Emergency Services** - Newly established consultative services to support providers working with youth and young adults with ASD or ID who are having a behavioral health crisis. Includes consultation and short-term follow-up support. 1-877-382-1609
- **Telehealth Information for Behavior Analysts** -Including Video Sample ABA Telehealth Sessions, Checklists, Research Articles, Links to webinars, podcasts, and other events. <https://www.behaviorbabe.com/telehealth>



*My daughter \_\_\_\_ was diagnosed with Autism and we have been having a really hard time with getting Mass Health coverage. Our ABA company \_\_\_\_ recommended that we reach out to your company for help.*

*We have been denied [by MassHealth] receiving multiple letters stating that the reasoning behind their decision is because our daughter is covered by insurance, however I have been told by many of the therapies she utilizes that mass health can serve as a secondary insurance provider to help offset the cost of copays, which will quickly become a financial burden to our family.*

*When I have called them the hours of phone conversation leave me feeling more frustrated than I had initially felt. I am overwhelmed by this process and need help navigating this new world to better benefit our daughter and family. I hope you can help!*



## Things To Know

- Almost all students should be able to access behavioral treatments through insurance.
- Many with private insurance will need MassHealth secondary.
- We are trying to address communication device coverage issues.
- It gets complex - we can help.



## Best Kept “Secrets”

- MassHealth Premium Assistance may be a huge benefit for people with private insurance and MassHealth secondary.
- For transition age student, disabled dependents can usually stay on a parent's policy beyond age 26



## The Autism Insurance Resource Center

UMass Medical School Shriver Center

### Contact Information

[www.massairc.org](http://www.massairc.org)

[AIRC@umassmed.edu](mailto:AIRC@umassmed.edu)

[info@disabilityinfo.org](mailto:info@disabilityinfo.org)

774-455-4056

[amy.weinstock@umassmed.edu](mailto:amy.weinstock@umassmed.edu)

[terri.farrell@umassmed.edu](mailto:terri.farrell@umassmed.edu)

[lisa.crouser@umassmed.edu](mailto:lisa.crouser@umassmed.edu)

### Acknowledgments

- MA Developmental Disabilities Council
- Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation
- Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism
- MA Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)
- [UMassMedical School](http://www.umassmed.edu)