# Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual C-800: Neurodevelopmental and Psychological Services

Revised August 24, 2018

## C-802: Autism Spectrum Disorder Supports

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### C-802-6: Autism Spectrum Disorder Supports Settings, Fees, and Allowable Hours

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#### Allowable Hours for Autism Spectrum Disorder Supports

The VR counselor may authorize up to 20 hours of ASD Supports.

Additional authorization of additional hours require documentation that the customer has:

* mastered the skills identified on the current DARS1880, ASD Supports Plan;
* made measurable improvement on the skills identified on DARS1880, ASD Supports Plan, but needs more time to master skills; or
* additional needs for skills development that have been identified.

For each 20 hours authorized, DARS1880, ASD Supports Plan, must be updated by the provider and submitted to the VR counselor for review and approval. The VR counselor documents whether the updated ASD Supports Plan is approved in an RHW case note and notifies the provider of the decision.

The total number of hours for ASD Supports may not exceed 120 hours over a lifetime of the case.

#### Exceptions to the 20-hour Limit

When necessary and clearly documented by the VR counselor, an exception can be made to the limitation of authorizing no more than 20 hours of ASD Support services at a time. For example, if a provider is conducting a summer social and vocational skills group that requires 30 hours, the VR counselor documents this as the justification for the exception in a RHW case note.

No additional review or approval is necessary for this first exception.

If more than one exception to the 20-hour limit is determined necessary for the same customer, the VR Supervisor must approve the additional hours. Approvals are limited to no more than 20-hour at a time and must be clearly documented.

Note: At any time in the process, the VR counselor may staff the case with the regional point of contact for the Neurodevelopment Disorders team for guidance and support on the provision of services.

VR Supervisor approval is also required to purchase any of the following assessments or services more than once:

* any neurodevelopmental or psychological assessment;
* ABA Evaluation (Social Skills or FBA)
* ASD Supports Plan
* Autism Psychological Battery; or
* Environmental Work Assessment (EWA)

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## C-803: Applied Behavior Analysis

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### C-803-7: Applied Behavioral Analysis Fees

Fees for all ABA services are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level of Provider** | **Pre-Needs Determination and Assessments** | **Individual Intervention** | **Group Intervention** |
| Level 1: BCBA-D | $125.00 per hour | $125.00 per hour | $45.00 per hour |
| Level 2: BCBA | $79.53 per hour | $79.53 per hour | $33.00 per hour |
| Level 3: BCaBA | N/A | $37.50 per hour | $18.75 per hour |
| Level 4: RBTTM | N/A | $37.50 per hour | $18.75 per hour |
| Level 5: Graduate Student | N/A | $37.50 per hour | $18.75 per hour |

Note: If a BCBA® and a BCBA-D® conduct an assessment or provide intervention, the provider must bill at the BCBA® provider rate.

When completing reports and submitting billing, the following descriptions must be used as defined:

* Direct Hours are time spent in person with the customer or actively training a pertinent individual who has direct involvement with the customer for obtaining and maintaining employment.
* Direct Observation of a behavior in the naturally occurring environment and the conditions that occur. Measurement tools such as a scatterplot or ABC chart may be used.
* Indirect Hours are time spent providing services other than in-person support, such as meetings with the VR counselor, phone calls, emails, collecting and graphing data, and writing progress reports.
* Indirect Observation may include, but not be limited to, interviews with customers or pertinent individuals in their life, informal assessments, or questionnaires.

VR Supervisor approval is required to purchase any of the following assessments or services more than once:

* any neurodevelopmental or psychological assessment;
* ABA Evaluation (Social Skills or FBA)
* ASD Supports Plan
* Autism Psychological Battery; or
* Environmental Work Assessment (EWA)

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## C-804: Psychological Services

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### C-804-2: Psychological Services Limits

Psychological Services are limited to the purchase of psychotherapy and outpatient psychiatric treatment. VR does not pay for inpatient psychiatric treatment. No exceptions to this policy are allowed. VR customers who need this level of treatment must be referred to the local mental health authority.

Evaluation or treatment of customers by a regional psychological consultant requires approval by the regional director.

Outpatient sessions with qualified providers are limited to:

* a maximum of 15 individual sessions;
* a maximum 30 group sessions; or
* some combination of the two.

Exceptions require consultation with regional psychological consultant and VR Manager approval.

Visits to a psychiatrist for medication monitoring only are not subject to these limitations but are subject to limitations on outpatient treatment. For further information, see [C-700: Medical Services](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-700).

Authorizing more than 15 individual outpatient counseling sessions, 30 group counseling sessions, or a combination of the two requires the approval of a VR Supervisor.

Repeating the purchase of any psychological or neuropsychological assessment or evaluation requires the approval of a VR Supervisor.

Requests for psychological or neuropsychological tests not listed in the Maximum Affordable Payment Schedule (MAPS) require consultation with the regional psychological consultant and the state medical director's approval.

Actions that are contrary to the advice of the regional psychological consultant require consultation with the VR Manager and approval by the State Medical Director.

For policies, procedures, and restrictions that apply to the purchase of prescription medications, refer to [C-703-24: Prescription Drugs and Medical Supplies](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-700#c703-24).