

4 Steps to Access Services for Autism Spectrum Disorder

AHCCCS covers medically necessary services for all Medicaid beneficiaries with or without a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which may be required for other services such as DDD/ALTCS.

Follow the steps below to get started:

Step 1: Visit Your Primary Care Provider

If you suspect your child has ASD, schedule an appointment with your primary care provider (specializing in family practice or pediatrics). If your primary care provider agrees with your concerns, a referral to a Specialized ASD Diagnosing Provider (listed in Step 2) will be made to confirm the ASD diagnosis.

Step 2: Get Diagnosed

Once a referral by your primary care provider has been made, schedule an appointment with the Specialized ASD Diagnosing Provider recommended by your primary care provider. A Specialized ASD Diagnosing Provider must be board certified or board eligible in:

- Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics
- Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics
- Adult or Child Psychiatry
- Licensed Clinical Psychology, doctoral level

Step 3: Get a Referral and Authorization

Once diagnosed, a Specialized ASD Diagnosing Provider and/or your primary care provider will discuss treatment options with you and request authorization for AHCCCS members to receive treatment through the medical and/or behavioral health plans.

Once services are authorized, you and your Provider(s) will be notified that you can begin. See Step 4 below.

For any services not authorized, you will receive a notice of action from your health plan that includes your appeal rights.

Step 4: Get Treatment

Schedule an appointment with the treating Provider(s). Your treating Provider(s) will:

- Develop an individual treatment plan
- Work one-on-one with you and your child
- Help parents and caregivers develop the skills to provide support and implement strategies Supervise services provided by assistant behavior analysts and behavior technicians
- Re-evaluate your child as needed