

# Green Box ABA

Parent Newsletter



## Introducing CentralReach

Beginning Monday, October 4, we will begin using a new (to us, at least) system, CentralReach, to manage your child's information and to collect data during ABA sessions.

### What Can I Expect?

**Data Collection.** Because our therapy teams already use electronic data collection, you won't notice much change in what therapists are doing during ABA sessions.

**Parent Portal.** One of the things we are most excited about is the system's parent portal, where you can see the information we have on file for you and your child, view graphs, and report progress on parent goals.

CentralReach

Connecting Every Point of Care.

**Communication.** CentralReach offers a safe, HIPAA-compliant method of communication. You can easily message your therapy team. Of course, we won't discontinue email communication entirely, but don't be surprised to start getting messages and updates via CentralReach.

### Your CentralReach Account

Shortly after we begin using CentralReach, we will be sending out your unique log-in information. You will then be able to log-in to your child's CentralReach account and begin using the system.

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## Parent Educational Workshop

In our next parent workshop, "Preparing for the Unexpected" will delve into strategies that can help ease reactions to situations that are unique, new, or unexpected.

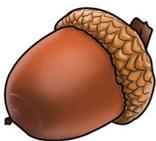
We hope that you will be able to join us live. But, if not, recordings of our workshops can be found on the website and on our YouTube channel.

Parent Educational Workshop

Preparing for the Unexpected

Saturday, November 6, 2021

9:00—10:00am





## TRICARE Updates

A number of the changes announced in March went into effect August 1. We are seeing some impact of those changes, including some ways that may potentially impact continuity of services. Continue reading to learn about some important developments

### Clinical Reviews

Every 6 months after we conduct an assessment and create a Treatment Plan, a “case manager” at Humana reviews the treatment plan and progress that is being made. Since the TRICARE changes, this process has been taking a very long time (up to a month until they begin the review). Not only that, but, they are very often requesting information or changes. When we submit those, everything pretty much starts over, meaning it can take several more weeks before they even *look* at the changes, not to mention approving services.

Currently, we shoot for submission of everything for review by Humana no later than 1 month before the end of the current authorization period. But being able to complete the submission packet in a way that allows time for processing requires your help.

### What do we need from you?

- Complete the 6-month update forms ASAP. Humana is especially interested in any updates related to other services (OT, PT, Speech) and to school services.
- Complete 6-month testing (PDDBI, PSI) ASAP after receiving the links.
- Try not to cancel parent training and meetings; the information from the meetings is essential to the report (see more about that below).
- Review the Treatment Plan ASAP after it is sent via Docusign. Delays in review and signing can result in delays in processing by Humana. If

you have any questions or what to request changes, contact your Behavior Analyst ASAP.

- Complete any yearly outcome testing ASAP (also see below).

### Testing Requirements

Outcome testing (Vineland, SRS) moved to a yearly cycle on July 1st.

Humana has informed us that they will not begin processing a request for reauthorization/continuation **until after the yearly testing is completed**. For example, if your child’s current authorization period ends on October 20, and the testing is due October 20 also, Humana will not begin processing for the continuation of services until the testing is completed, which will cause a delay in approval until after the end of the current authorization (and if you are asking yourself, doesn’t that just mean that, technically, the due date is about a month earlier, then you would be correct). Please complete the testing as soon as possible after you are sent the testing links, in order to avoid delays.

### Parent Participation Requirements

Parent/Family ABA Training is required at least 6 times per authorization period. According to TRICARE, failure to meet that requirement for 2 consecutive 6-month authorization periods will result in non-renewal of services.

TRICARE recognizes that your involvement in treatment is essential to your child’s progress. Treatment Plans need to include measurable family goals, that are objective measures of progress. Your Behavior Analyst will work with you to determine what home goals are important to your child and your family.

## TRICARE Required Testing

Yes, there are A LOT of requirements to maintain your child's eligibility for ABA services through TRICARE. TRICARE requires treatment reviews every six months prior to the authorization of services, this always consists of an Assessment and Treatment Plan and six-month testing – PDDBI and PSI/SIPA. Every year, they also require “yearly outcome testing” – the Vineland Adaptive Scales-3 and the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS-2)

Below is a break-down to help you keep track of what is due and when.

### What Testing is Needed & When?

#### When starting services:

- An Assessment and Treatment Plan with goals, targets, and recommended hours (completed by the BCBA)
- PDDBI
- Parental Stress Index (PSI) or Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents (SIPA)
- Vineland-3
- SRS-2

#### Every six months:

- Re-assessment and updated Treatment Plan (completed by the BCBA)
- PDDBI – Parent form and the PDDBI-Teacher form, which is completed by the BCBA/BCBA-D
- PSI or SIPA

#### Annually (IN ADDITION TO the six-month requirements):

- Vineland-3
- SRS-2

### Where Do I Get the Testing?

#### Six-Month Testing:

The six-month testing is administered through Green Box ABA as a part of

every 6-month reassessment. The links to the questionnaires are sent by the office. After you complete the PDDBI testing, your BCBA scores, interprets, and completes the necessary report. After you complete the PSI/SIPA testing, Dr. Kaminski scores, interprets, and completes the necessary report. The results of the PSI/SIPA are not shared directly with your BCBA/BCaBA, although they may meet with Dr. Kaminski to discuss results indicating that adjustments should be made to treatment plans and parent goals.

#### Yearly Outcome Testing

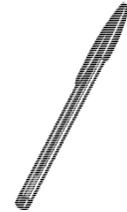
TRICARE should send you a letter to let you know the due date. We also monitor the due dates and send you the information and reminders, as needed.

This testing can be completed by Green Box ABA or by your referring physician or by a psychologist.

If you opted to take advantage of our “**auto-testing**” program, then we will automatically request the authorization to complete the yearly outcome testing and send you links to the 2 outcome tests (Vineland and SRS) for you to complete. You will also be sent an email from the office alerting you that they have been sent. After you complete the questionnaires at the links. Dr. Kaminski will score, interpret, complete the report, and submit to TRICARE. At your request, a copy of the results will be provided.

If your own provider administers the yearly testing, be sure that this is completed no later than the TRICARE indicated date and submitted directly to TRICARE. Please also arrange for the provider to send a copy of the results to us, as TRICARE would like for us to also have it on file and align our treatment with the results.

As always, reach out to the office (tmcrae@greenboxaba.com) if you have any questions



### Testing (Boooo....)

Look, we know that the testing is lengthy and time-consuming..

But it is also important!

- Your behavior analyst uses the information to help guide treatment goals.
- TRICARE/Humana will not process requests for ABA (new and ongoing) without completed testing.

So, while it is easy to see it in your inbox and then say to yourself “I’ll get that when I have time,” try saying “**This is important. I should do this right away!**”

## Communication

To make sure that your needs and questions are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, please use the following guide:

### **General questions about services:**

Main Office: [greenboxaba@gmail.com](mailto:greenboxaba@gmail.com); 571-297-4308

### **Cancellations:**

Contact your therapists and BCBA/BCaBA

### **Questions/issues related to copays/invoices:**

Main Office: [greenboxaba@gmail.com](mailto:greenboxaba@gmail.com); 571-297-4308

### **Clinical Administration:**

Required testing

Service authorizations

Clinical Assistant: [tmcrae@greenboxaba.com](mailto:tmcrae@greenboxaba.com); 571-297-4308

### **Scheduling:**

Scheduling Specialist: [msauter@greenboxaba.com](mailto:msauter@greenboxaba.com); 571-297-4308

### **Clinical and behavioral concerns:**

Your BCBA/BcaBA

Management is also available, in the event that an issue cannot be resolved with the departments above. Contact the main office to speak with or leave a message for:

Carl Dzyak, CEO

Chris Richardson, COO

Barbara Kaminski, Clinical Director

