



Arizona Association for Behavior Analysis

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Erin Cook, *President*
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Dear AzABA Community Members,

Amidst the chaos of the past few weeks and the looming uncertainty of what's to come, we wanted to send a message on behalf of the AzABA Board of Directors.

Over the past 10 years, we have dedicated immeasurable time and resources in service of advancing Behavior Analysis practices in Arizona, and for the recognition of ABA as a medically necessary treatment. Now, in the wake of COVID-19, we're all in the precarious position of having to make careful and considered decisions that will not only impact the lives of our clients, the lives our tribes, but also the future of our field. AzABA would like to thank you for continuing to provide medically necessary services to people that need the kind of help that only scientist-practitioners of ABA provide. One of the most significant changes to date in Arizona is an increased opportunity, particularly for AHCCCS-funded providers, to provide effective ABA treatments via telehealth. This has implications for service delivery, billing, and claims. Here are four resources that the Public Policy Committee would like to recommend as you seek answers to your questions and determine how to best restructure your work to meet the needs of our communities:

1. **The ABA Coding Coalition** comprises representatives of three of the organizations (Association of Professional Behavior Analysts, Autism Speaks, Behavior Analyst Certification Board) and a consultant who participated on the work group that developed the application to the American Medical Association CPT® Editorial Panel that resulted in the code set for adaptive behavior (applied behavior analysis) services that went into effect January 1, 2019.
<https://abacodes.org/alert-navigating-the-covid-19-impact-on-aba-services/>
2. **AHCCCS** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Regarding Coronavirus
<https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19FAQ.html>
3. **DDD** FAQ regarding COVID-19
https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/media/DDD_COVID19_FAQ_032620.pdf
4. **BHCOE** COVID-19 FAQs for providers:
<https://bhcoe.org/resources/covid-19-faqs-for-aba-providers/>

Also included in this correspondence is a copy of an AHCCCS presentation on telehealth including permanent and temporary changes that permit maximum flexibility during these times of hardship.

These are not easy decisions we face, but AzABA is dedicating as much of its time and resources as are available, in support of you and your organization. Below is a list of ongoing actions that you can expect from

us. Please also be looking to our social media for links to other webinars, web-based trainings, or resource links. If you see resources we've missed, we welcome you to tag us in those posts.

- Facilitation of conference calls every Thursday and Sunday for business leaders to express concerns and share ideas (email Erin.Cook@azaba.org for the link)
- Continuation of our Special Interest Group meetings with CEU opportunities, held monthly
- Sharing of presentations and other vital information from regulatory bodies, state associations, and others.

This is a time for community and connection--if you have any general questions that we can help with, or if there is something your organization has tried that has been helpful in navigating these waters, please reach us at arizonaABA@gmail.com or jump on one of the zoom calls. Also, don't forget our Ethics Portal as a tool for navigating tricky situations: <https://azaba.org/ethics/>. Wishing you all continued health.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors,
Arizona Association for Behavior Analysis