



# MOLINA HEALTHCARE OF WASHINGTON

## PRACTICE PARAMETER FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Molina Healthcare of Washington has adopted the guidelines for Autism. The guidelines were reviewed and adopted by the Molina Healthcare of Washington's Clinical Quality Improvement Committee on April 19, 2017, March 9, 2018.

The Clinical Practice Guideline may be accessed from [Practice parameter for the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder](#)

### 2017 Important Points on Autism Guideline

#### Assessment:

1. The developmental assessment of young children and the psychiatric assessment of all children should routinely include questions about ASD symptomatology
2. If the screening indicates significant ASD symptomatology, a thorough diagnostic evaluation should be performed to determine the presence of ASD.
3. Clinicians should coordinate an appropriate multidisciplinary assessment of children with ASD to include a physical exam, hearing screen, Wood's lamp exam for tuberous sclerosis, genetic testing, and psychological assessment.

#### Treatment:

1. The clinician should help the family obtain appropriate, evidence-based and structured educational and behavioral interventions for children with ASD such as applied behavioral analysis, working with a speech language pathologist, development of an appropriate individualized educational plan
2. Pharmacotherapy may be offered to children with ASD when there is a specific target symptom or comorbid condition
3. The clinician should maintain an active role in long-term treatment planning and family support and support of the individual
4. Clinicians should specifically inquire about the use of alternative/complementary treatments and be prepared to discuss their risk and potential benefits.