

November 7, 2012

Paul Terdal
700 NW Macleay
Portland, OR 97210

Dear Mr. Terdal,

In response to your questions regarding autism and ABA coverage, I am providing information about the current KFHPNW coverage.

KFHPNW covers health care services in part based on medical necessity, regardless of whether the member has a diagnosis of autism, pervasive developmental disorder, neurodevelopmental disorder or other diagnosis.

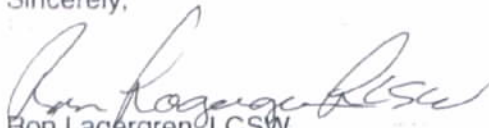
If a Permanente developmental specialist determines that a member with commercial coverage meets Kaiser Permanente medical necessity criteria for a service, including that the member is likely to exhibit significant, measurable and sustainable health improvement as a result of receiving the service, a treatment plan will be developed which may include one or more of the following: physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy; sensory integration (SI) under the Occupational Therapy (OT) services benefit, or **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** or other mental health services under the Mental Health benefit. Coverage is subject to benefit requirements, limitations, and exclusions, and may be different for members with Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

In addition, under Washington law, if the individual is aged birth through age 6 with a neurodevelopmental disorder, chronic and maintenance care are also covered, up to benefit limits.

Members who receive covered services are responsible for paying any applicable cost sharing.

Respite care, custodial care, day care, recreational care, education services of any kind are not covered.

Sincerely,



Ron Lagergren, LCSW
Manager, Utilization Management
Kaiser Permanente

cc: John Hardiman, Oregon State Insurance Division
Heidi Lutz, Commercial Compliance Manager, KPNW
Jill Vaughan, Director Member Relations

Interstate Medical Office East
3550 N. Interstate Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227-1197
503-285-9321