



# Getting Health Insurance to Pay for ABA Therapy

Eric Gaum





Understand the basis for health insurance coverage of ABA therapy for children in Ohio

Learn how to tender claims for ABA therapy coverage to health insurance carriers

Understand how to advocate for the broadest reimbursement for ABA therapy from health insurance carriers





#### How is ABA therapy covered by health insurance in Ohio?

JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR STATE OF OHIC

December 26, 2012

Director Gary Cohen

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite 739H Washinston, D. C. 20201

Washington, D.C. 20201
Electronically submitted via www.regulatjons.gov

Dear Director Cohen,

This letter is to provide you with comments on the Proposed Rule 45 CFR Part 156 – Health Insurance Issuer Standards Under the Affordable Care Act, Including Standards Related to Exchanges.

As a preliminary matter, please note that Appendix A of this rule incorrectly describes the proposed benchmark plan for the state of Ohio as providing habilitative services. A review of the plan contract documents for the benchmark plan you selected for Ohio indicates that the plan does not provide for habilitative services and, as such, the Appendix A should indicate "No" in the "Habilitative services" column. This information was previously communicated to your office on December 12, 2012.

Since the benchmark plan you selected for Ohio does not provide for habilitative services, the State of Ohio intends to exercise the authority provided by 45 CFR §156.110(f) to determine habilitative services as the following:

"Habilitative services benefits shall be determined by the individual plans and must include, but shall not be limited to, Habilitative Services to children [0 to 21] with a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum disorder which at a minimum shall include:

(1) Out-Patient Physical Rehabilitation Services including

(a) Speech and Language therapy and/or Occupational therapy, performed by a licensed therapists, 20 visits per year of each service; and (b) Clinical Therapeutic Intervention defined as therapies supported by empirical evidence, which include but are not limited to Applied Behavioral Analysis, provided by or under the supervision of a professional who is licensed, certified, or registered by an appropriate agency of this state to perform the services in accordance with a treatment plan, 20 hours per week;

(2) Mental/Behavioral Health Outpatient Services performed by a licensed Psychologist, Psych'atrist, or Physician to provide consultation, assessment, development and oversight of treatment plans, 30 visits per year total."

Sincerely

John Kasich Governor

77 SOUTH HIGH STREET • 30TH FLOOR • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-6117 • 614.466.3555





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"Habilitative services benefits shall be determined by the individual plans and must include, but shall not be limited to, Habilitative Services to children (0 to 21) with a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum disorder which at a minimum shall include:

Children from birth to 21 years of age are eligible

Must have a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum disorder





Out-Patient Physical Rehabilitation Services including

 (a) Speech and Language therapy and/or Occupational therapy, performed by a licensed therapists, 20 visits per year of each service; and

Speech and Language therapy; Occupation therapy

Performed by licensed therapists

Limited to 20 visits per year of each service

What is a visit?







(b) Clinical Therapeutic Intervention defined as therapies supported by empirical evidence, which include but are not limited to Applied Behavioral Analysis, provided by or under the supervision of a professional who is licensed, certified, or registered by an appropriate agency of this state to perform the services in accordance with a treatment plan, 20 hours per week;





"Clinical Therapeutic intervention defined as therapies supported by empirical evidence, which include but are not limited to Applied Behavioral Analysis..."

Coverage is not limited to ABA therapy

The key is that is it supported by "empirical evidence," i.e., scientifically based research







Examples include:

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
Discrete Trial Training (DTT)
Functional Communication Training (FCT)
Pivotal Response Training (PRT)
Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy





"Clinical Therapeutic intervention defined as therapies supported by empirical evidence, which include but are not limited to Applied Behavioral Analysis, provided by or under the supervision of a professional who is licensed, certified, or registered by an appropriate agency of this state to perform the services in accordance with a treatment plan..."





#### Insurance covers up to 20 hours per week

An average school day from 9 to 2:30 = 5.5 hours a day

Five days a week x 5.5 hours = 27.5 hours a week

Subtract out 1 hour a day for lunch = 22.5 hours a week





(2) Mental/Behavioral Health Outpatient Services performed by a licensed Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or Physician to provide consultation, assessment, development and oversight of treatment plans, 30 visits per year total."

Limited to 30 visits per year of each service

What is a visit?







#### 20. What is the practical implication of the Governor's Habilitative Services letter?

Ohio will require coverage for certain individuals with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder by all plans that are mandated to meet Essential Health Benefit (EHB) requirements. Generally, all new plans sold to small employer groups (between 2 and 50 employees) and to individuals, both inside and outside of the exchange, are required to meet EHB requirements. For more information about EHB, click here.

http://ohiohealthbenefits.net/ODI FederalHealthReformFAQs.pdf

New health insurance plans sold to individuals

New health insurance plans sold to small employer groups (between 2 and 50 employees)







Grandfathered plans, those that have existed continuously since before March 23, 2010 without significant changes, are not required to contain or comply with the Essential Health Benefits package and certain other ACA requirements

Be sure to check with your health insurance carrier to make sure it provides coverage!





#### How do you actually get insurance to pay for ABA therapy?

#### 21. What does the Habilitative Services definition encompass?

Habilitative Services benefits will be determined by the individual plans and must include, but shall not be limited to, Habilitative Services to children (0 to 21) with a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum disorder.

http://ohiohealthbenefits.net/ODI FederalHealthReformFAQs.pdf

You will need a medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder

Developmental Pediatrician - MD







Also have him/her provide a written prescription for ABA therapy so you can write off on your taxes whatever costs are not covered by insurance as a medical expense

\* Insurance is unlikely to cover all expenses





#### How do you actually get insurance to pay for ABA therapy?

Get your insurance carrier to authorize the treatment in advance





### DO EVERYTHING IN WRITING!!!





#### How do you actually get insurance to pay for ABA therapy?

Is your ABA provider in-network or out-of-network?

If in-network, your life is easy...

It's just like going to any other doctor:

Show your health insurance card

Pay a small co-pay

Provider writes off portion of its fees

Provider handles submission of claim to carrier





### What happens if the ABA provider is out-of-network?

**YOU** have to handle more paper work

**YOU** will be reimbursed less by the insurance company







#### TIP to help save money:

Get the insurance company to treat your out-ofnetwork provider as if it were in-network

Anthem (and presumably others) will do an In Network (INN) override if comparable services cannot be found within 30 miles of your zip code

If granted, then reimbursement for Out of Network (ONN) provider will be at INN rate (and INN deductibles, etc.)







**2016 Year-to-date information** — *To learn more about what's covered, see your benefits booklet.* It's important to know how close you are to meeting your plan's deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.

_				
work Applied	Remaining	Out-of-network	Applied	Remaining
mum to date	deductible	maximum	to date	deductible
\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00	\$1,691.32	\$2,058.68
deductible for all cov	ered family me	embers combined.		
		mum to date deductible 50.00 \$1,250.00 \$0.00	mum to date deductible maximum 50.00 \$1,250.00 \$0.00 \$3,750.00	mum to date deductible maximum to date

Family \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$0.00 \$7,500.00 \$1,691.32 \$5,808.68





#### Submitting a claim for ABA therapy to your insurance company

Steps for submitting a claim to Anthem, my carrier:







#### **Medical Claim Form**

Read instructions on reverse side.							Anthe oss BlueSh		. (
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Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield PO Box 105187 Atlanta, CA 30348									
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Medicare health insurance claim no 7. Patient first name					ture (parant or gua	rdian, if minor)		Date	
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Other insurer street address	City	1	State	ZIP code	Patient cert	ficate no.	Effective det	e of patient con	fract
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PART 2: PHYSICIAN OR PROV									
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18. Name and address of facility where:	service was rendered (off)	er than home or offic	ð		es related to hespit	ainte			
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#### **Medical Claim Form**

Anthem. BlueCross BlueShield

Read instructions on reverse side.

Mail to:
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
PO Box 105187

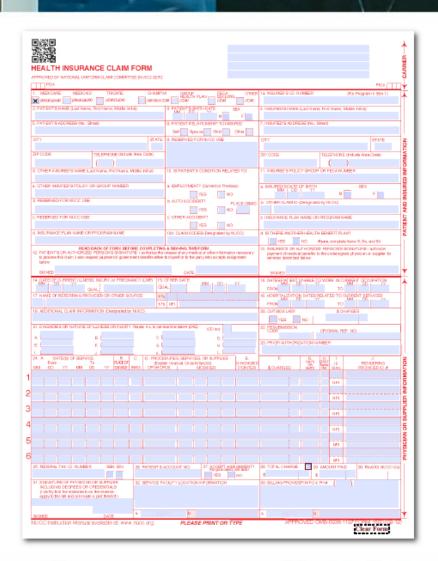
Atlanta, GA 30348

PART 1: CUSTOMER AND PATIENT INFORMATION — Please print or type																	
1. Customer first name	M	M.I. Li	ast name			Str	eet address	□Nev	w addres	SS	City	1		State	ZIP code	Phone no.	
2. Customer sex 3. Group name 4. Customer of Male Female					omer certificate or ID no. If arrow appears on ID card, copy numbers exactly.  Anthem plan code (numbers found of N							numbers found on	ID card)				
5. Is the patient eligible for Medicare?  ☐ Yes □ XD No If yes, please read filing instructions on reverse side.								6. I authorize release to Anthem of any information pertaining to this claim.									
Medicare health insurance claim no.							Patient's signature (parent or guardian, if minor)							Date			
7. Patient first name M.I. Last name						8. Patient relation to customer  1 □ Self (male) 3 □ Husband 5 □ Son 7 □ Other male dependent 2 □ Self (female) 4 □ Wife 6 □ Daughter 8 □ Other female dependent											
9. Patient birthdate	Age	C	ustomer	birthdate		Age	Spouse birt	hdate		Age		ls patient a full- □ Yes □ No			f age or older?		
11. If the patient is other than the customer, is the patient covered by any other group medical policy (including Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield)? 🗆 Yes 🖄 No If yes, complete the following.																	
Other policyholder r	name					Patient 6	employer						Other insurer				
Other insurer street	address				City			Sta	te Z	IP code		Patient certific	cate no.		Effective date	of patient contrac	t
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## **Health Insurance Claim Form**





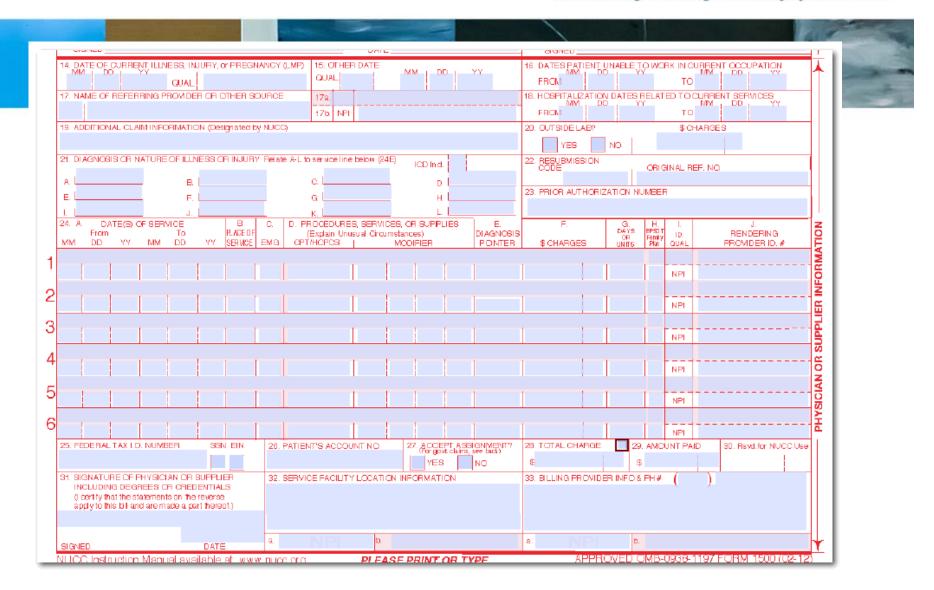


#### **Health Insurance Claim Form**

HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM  APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE (NUCC) 02/12		CARRIER →
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PCCOE TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)  ( )  9. OTHER INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)	10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO:	ZIP CODE TELEPHONE (Indude Area Code)  11. INSURED'S POLICY GROUP OR FECA NUMBER  a. INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH  MM DD WY M F
a. OTHER INSURED'S POLICY OR GROUP NUMBER     b. RESERVED FOR NUCC USE     c. RESERVED FOR NUCC USE	a. EMPLOYMENT? (Quirent or Previous)  VES NO  b. AUTO ACCIDENT? PLACE (State)  TYPES NO  c. OTHER ACCIDENT?	L OTHER CLAIM ID (Designated by NUCC)
d. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME  READ BACK OF FORM BEFORE COMPLETING	YES NO 10d. CLAIM CCDES (Designated by NUCC)	C. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME  d. IS THERE ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN?  VES NO Wyes, complete illems 9, 9a, and 9d.  13. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME  LA INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME OR PROGRAM NAME  LA INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME
PATIENT'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize the biprocess this daim. I also request payment of government benefits either balow.  SIGNED	release of any medical or other information necessary	payment of medical benefits to the undersigned physician or supplier for services described below.  SIGNED



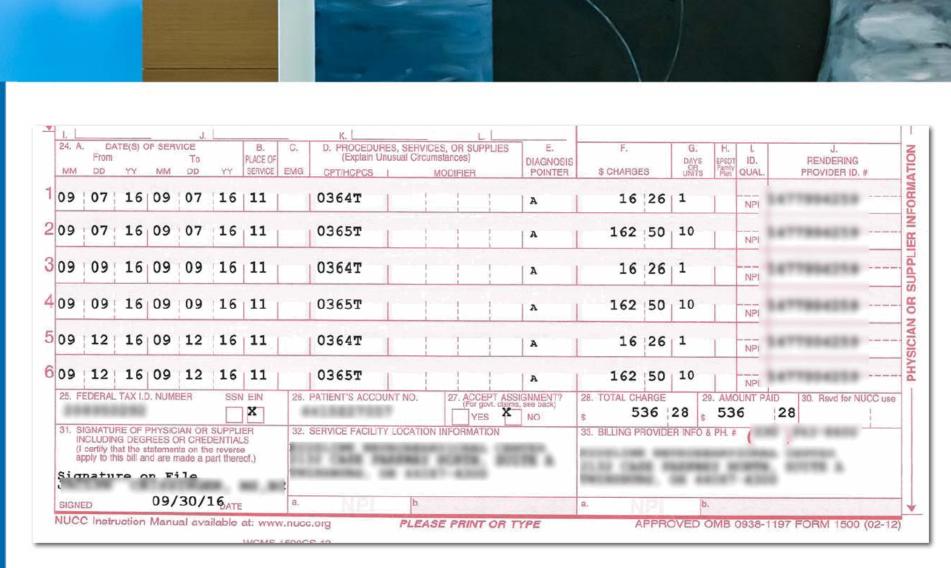






#### **Health Insurance Claim Form**



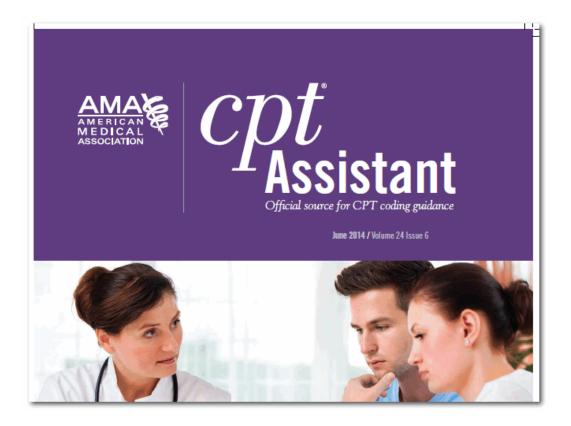




#### **Health Insurance Claim Form**



#### **Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Codes**







## Adaptive Behavior Assessments and Treatment Descriptors for July 1, 2014 Reporting

The Category III codes for adaptive behavior assessment and treatment are applicable to patients of any age with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) or other diagnoses or conditions (eg, developmental disabilities, head trauma) associated with deficient adaptive or maladaptive behaviors (eg, impaired social skills and communication, destructive behaviors, or additional functional limitations secondary to maladaptive behaviors). These codes were developed by a CPT Editorial Panel workgroup consisting of members representing psychiatry, psychology, speech-language and hearing, clinical social workers, neurology, occupational therapy, behavioral analysts, pediatrics, and payers.





## **Adaptive Behavior Treatment**

The adaptive behavior treatment codes (0364T, 0365T, 0366T, 0367T, 0368T, 0369T, 0373T, 0374T) are used to report services for patients diagnosed with ASD or other diagnoses or conditions (eg, developmental disabilities, head trauma) associated with deficient adaptive or maladaptive behaviors (eg, impaired social skills and communication, destructive behaviors, or additional functional limitations secondary to maladaptive behaviors). These services are face-to-face with a patient or patient's family alone or in a group. The majority of these services are provided by technician(s) under the direction of a behavior analyst.







## Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol

Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol (0364T, 0365T, 0366T, 0366T) is administered by a single technician under the direction (on-site or off-site) of the physician or other qualified health care professional by adhering to the protocols that have been designed by the physician or other qualified health care professional. This treatment is delivered to a patient alone (0364T, 0365T) or while attending a group session (0366T, 0367T).









**●**0364T

Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician, face-to-face with one patient; first 30 minutes of technician time

+ 0365T

each additional 30 minutes of technician time (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

► (Use 0365T in conjunction with 0364T) ◀



**Adaptive Behavior Treatment Codes** 



## Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol Modification

Unlike the adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification (0368T, 0369T) is not administered by a technician, but rather the physician or other qualified health care professional, who is face-to-face with a single patient, delivers the service. The









**●**0368T

Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by physician or other qualified health care professional with one patient; first 30 minutes of patient faceto-face time

+0369T

each additional 30 minutes of patient face-to-face time (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

► (Use 0369T in conjunction with 0368T) <



**Adaptive Behavior Treatment Codes** 



## **Insurance Reimbursement (Anthem)**

<u>CPT Code</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>
0364T	\$16.26	\$14.63
0365T	\$16.26	\$14.63
0368T	\$82.50	\$34.76
0369T	\$82.50	\$34.76





### **Insurance Reimbursement (Anthem)**

<u>September 2016 – ABA Therapy Claim</u>

Tendered bill to Anthem for \$3,809.66

Anthem reimbursed \$2,717.83

71.3% of the tendered claim was reimbursed





# Paying for a full time ABA program

Full time ABA programs in Northeast Ohio

All cost over \$70K per year

Combination of ABA health insurance coverage and Ohio Autism Scholarship covers <u>most</u> of program

Ohio Autism Scholarship is \$27K per year

Currently getting approximately 82% of cost covered





# Submitting a claim for ABA therapy to your insurance company

At the end of each month (or after services have been rendered) I send Anthem the following:

**Medical Claim Form** 

Health Insurance Claim Form(s)

Proof of payment (cashed check or credit card receipt)

Copy of my daughter's health insurance card

Cover letter describing exactly what I'm sending





## Submitting a claim for ABA therapy to your insurance company



MEMBERS: When submitting inquiries always include your Identification Number from the front of this card. Possession or use of this card does not guarantee payment.

PROVIDERS: Please submit claims to your local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plan. To ensure prompt claims processing, include the 3-digit alpha prefix that precedes the Identification Number listed on the front of this card.

File medical claims to: P.O. Box 105187 Atlants, GA 30348-5187 File dental claims to: P.O. Box 1115 Minneapolis, MN 55440-1115

#### anthem.com

(855) 330-1106 Member Service Provider Service (855) 854-1438 800) 824-0898 Pharmacist Questions Pre Authorization 800 752-1182 24/7 Nurseline (800) 249-3617 (800) 810-BLUE Coverage while traveling Ped Dental/GRID Services (877) 604-2156 Pediatric Blue View Vision (866) 723-0515 Pediatric Vision Claims:

PO Box 8504, Mason, OH 45040-7111 livehealthonline.com

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of Community Insurance Company. Independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. @ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.





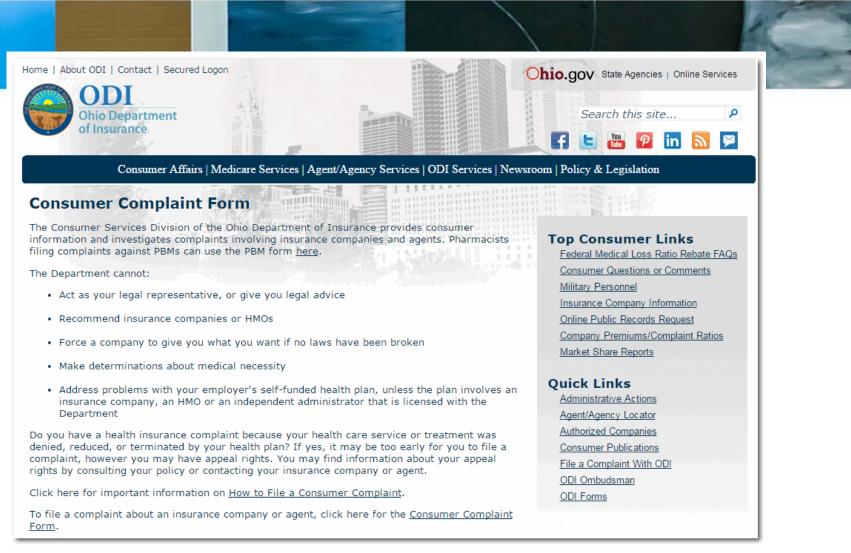
# What do you do if you have problems with the insurance company?







### Relentlessly working on behalf of our clients

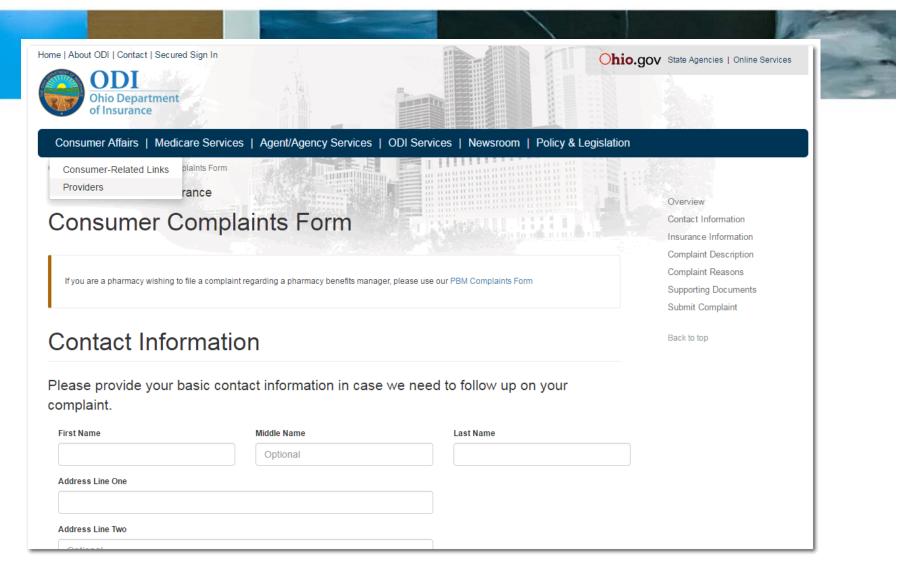


https://www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/OCS/Pages/ConsCompl.aspx





### Relentlessly working on behalf of our clients



https://gateway.insurance.ohio.gov/UI/ODI.CS.Public.UI/Complaint.mvc/DisplayConsumerComplaintForm





# How To File An Insurance Complaint With The State Of Ohio



Consumers 1-800-686-1526 • OSHIIP 1-800-686-1578 • Fraud & Enforcement 1-800-686-1527

### The Ohio Department of Insurance Complaint Process

Ohio law gives insurance consumers the right to file a complaint against insurance companies, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), insurance agents and adjusters.

The Ohio Department of Insurance, one of the largest consumer protection agencies in the state, regulates automobile, homeowner's, renter's, certain health, life, annuities, nursing home, credit life, credit disability and pet insurance.

Annually, the Department saves consumers millions by reviewing different types of insurance complaints received from Ohioans related to cancellations, refunds, sales practices, misrepresentation, claim and benefit disputes, and more.

https://www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/OCS/Documents/HowtoComplain.pdf







### How soon will I hear from Consumer Services?

- · You should receive a letter within two weeks confirming that we have received your complaint.
- Our letter will give your analyst's name, explain what action we are taking, and tell you how long it may take to conclude the process.

### How long will the investigaton take?

 An investigation usually takes approximately 30 days but can take much longer if your complaint involves a unique or complex problem.

https://www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/OCS/Documents/HowtoComplain.pdf







### What will the investigaton involve?

- The Department will send the company a copy of your complaint and ask for an explanation of its position.
- Your analyst will review the company's response to make sure it has correctly addressed your problem— this may
  result in more letters or phone calls between the analyst and the company.
- Your analyst will send you a letter that explains the results of the investigation.

### What happens if the company refuses to correct my problem?

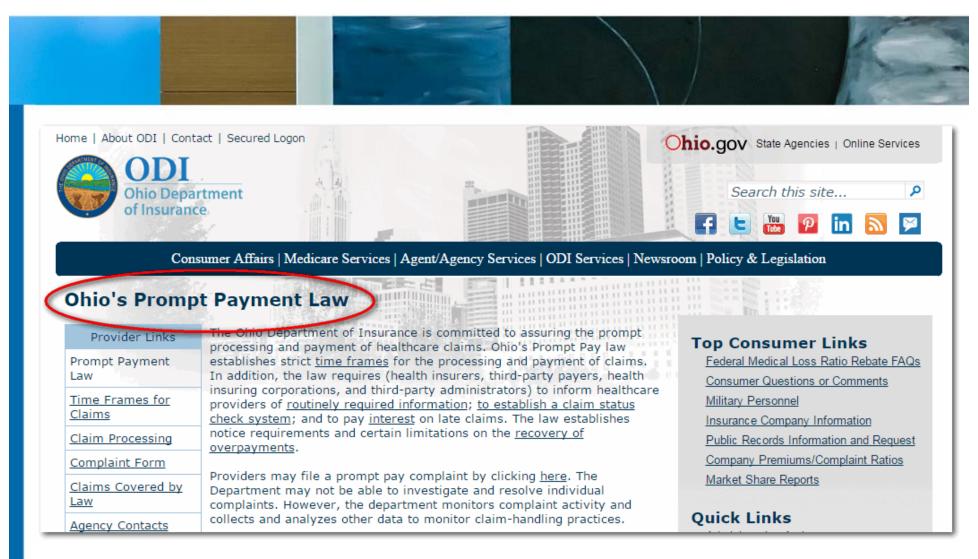
- If there is no evidence of violations, the analyst's letter will say so and explain why we are closing the investigation.
- If the analyst is not satisfied with the company's response, we will continue to work on the case.
- If it is determined that the company or agent violated insurance laws, your complaint will be referred to the Department's Market Conduct Division or Enforcement Division for further action.

https://www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/OCS/Documents/HowtoComplain.pdf





### Relentlessly working on behalf of our clients



https://www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/Pages/InsPrmpt.aspx





[§ 3901.38.1] § 3901.381. Time limits for third-party payer processing of health care provider claims; provider and beneficiary to be notified of denial.

- (A) Except as provided in sections 3901.382 [3901.38.2], 3901.383 [3901.38.3], 3901.384 [3901.38.4], and 3901.386 [3901.38.6] of the Revised Code, a third-party payer shall process a claim for payment for health care services rendered by a provider to a beneficiary in accordance with this section.
- (B) (1) Unless division (B)(2) or (3) of this section applies, when a third-party payer receives from a provider or beneficiary a claim on the standard claim form prescribed in rules adopted by the superintendent of insurance under <u>section 3902.22</u> of the Revised Code, the third-party payer shall pay or deny the claim not later than thirty days after receipt of the claim. When a third-party payer denies a claim, the third-party payer shall notify the provider and the beneficiary. The notice shall state, with specificity, why the third-party payer denied the claim.

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### [§ 3901.38.9] § 3901.389. Liability for interest.

- (A) Any third-party payer that fails to comply with <u>section 3901.381</u> [3901.38.1] of the Revised Code, or any contractual payment arrangement entered into under <u>section 3901.383</u> [3901.38.3] of the Revised Code, shall pay interest in accordance with this section.
- (B) Interest shall be computed based upon the number of days that have elapsed between the date payment is due in accordance with <u>section 3901.381</u> [3901.38.1] of the Revised Code or the contractual payment arrangement entered into under <u>section 3901.383</u> [3901.38.3] of the Revised Code, and the date payment is made. The interest rate for determining the amount of interest due shall be equal to an annual percentage rate of eighteen per cent.

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# Thank You!

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