

Service Information from Philadelphia's Autism Centers for Excellence

The Philadelphia Autism Centers for Excellence provide service to children ages 2-21 and their families who have active Medical Assistance in Philadelphia County through Community Behavioral Health (CBH). The three centers at CGRC, NET, and SPIN collaborate with one another to assure services are well coordinated across the city. The centers offer a full continuum of services beginning with comprehensive diagnosis. The specific services offered by each center are described below along with the name of which center provides them.

Extended Assessment Services (EAS) [SPIN, NET & CGRC]

This comprehensive evaluation determines whether an Autism diagnosis is appropriate or to clarify a diagnosis. The evaluation includes the use of standardized assessment tools such as the ADOS-2, ADI-R, SRS-2, etc., as well as a Behavioral Observation or other skills assessment. The evaluation takes place in multiple settings over several visits and can take up to 60 days to complete. At the end of the process, recommendations are made by a psychologist.

Blended Case Management (BCM) [SPIN, NET & CGRC]

Case management is a short-term stand-alone service which assists children and families when a family member has been diagnosed with Autism. BCM can assist with: linking to and getting access to other needed services; connecting with community resources; obtaining basic living needs and skills, such as housing, food, medical care, recreation, education, and employment; and coordinating among behavioral health providers and other child-serving systems.

Out-patient Services (OPS): [SPIN, NET & CGRC]

A variety of services can be provided within the clinic to support the child/family to be more successful. These services can include: individual and family therapy; Social Skills Training Groups; Psychiatric/Psychological evaluations and Medication Management.

Applied Behavior Analysis [SPIN & CGRC]

This intensive one-to-one, evidence-based behavioral treatment focuses on skill building and problem behavior reduction for children with Autism who have Adaptive Skill deficits. Goals and targets of intervention are selected after specialized ABA Assessment and delivered by a specialized team, supervised by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Parent training is a required component and the service is offered in home, school, and the community.

Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services (BHRS, or Wraparound) [SPIN, NET & CGRC]

BHRS is a short-term, time-limited service that focuses on transfer of behavioral management skill to teachers, parents, and other community/family members in order to support the success of children/youth with Autism in different settings. This service is only recommended when existing educational or other services for which the child is eligible are in place. Three individual levels of provider may offer service under BHRS: Behavior Specialist Consultant, Mobile Therapist, and/or a Therapeutic Support Staff.

Summer Therapeutic Activities Programs (STAP) [SPIN, NET]

STAP is a group-based intervention for children ages 6-21 years who are diagnosed with Autism. It is based on the Social Thinking Model and uses a series of structured activities to promote age-appropriate social skills, self-regulation, and improvement of self-esteem. Each child referred must currently be receiving some form of behavioral health service and be able to tolerate a group size of 1 staff to 3 children in order to be appropriate for STAP.

After School Program (ASP) [SPIN, NET]

The ASP is very similar to the goals and treatment approaches of STAP. It operates during the school year in the after-school hours and is designed for children ages 6-21 with Autism, focusing on the development of group socialization and coping skills.

CREATE [CGRC]

CREATE is an intensive outpatient group interactive social skills service developed from evidence-based interventions for children ages 6-21 who have Autism. CREATE includes regular family therapy and parent workshops. CREATE is a year-round program that offers flexible, rolling start dates for clients and their families. Depending on the child's age they attend two afternoons/evenings per week for 3 hours with same aged peers.

Pivotal Response Training (PRT) [CGRC]

PRT is an evidence-based behavioral treatment that is child directed and uses motivational strategies in the child's natural environments to target areas of development, such as motivation, responsivity to multiple cues, self-management, and social initiations. It is appropriate for children who are diagnosed with Autism and is provided in the outpatient setting.

Family Based Services (FBS) [NET & CGRC]

FBS is the highest level of care available outside of a hospital or residential setting for children diagnosed with Autism. FBS is most appropriate for those youth who are considered at-risk for out-of-home placement. It includes family therapy, individual counseling, parent education, intensive case management, and family support services within the home, school, and community, including 24 hour on-call support. The service runs for 32 weeks.

Parent Support Groups [SPIN, NET & CGRC]

Groups are run at each of the three locations throughout the year and are facilitated by the center's Family Resource Coordinator. The purpose of the support groups is to provide a forum for all parents & caregivers of someone with Autism to gather with one another for education and support. All families are welcome and are not required to receive service to participate. Topics vary based on input from families and free childcare is available.

Autism Parent Training Groups [NET]

This curriculum-based series is designed to work directly with parents and other caregivers in providing vital information associated with supporting a child with ASD across environments and systems.