TALKING POINTS

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) providers in Kentucky, who treat individuals, particularly young children, with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities, have been notified by Anthem of planned reimbursement rate cuts

* Anthem plans to cut the reimbursement rate for the primary CPT code (97153) for ABA services by 25% for in-network providers, effective 11/1
* This will take their reimbursement rate well below the usual, customary, and reasonable rate for ABA services
* ABA providers will be forced to leave Anthem’s network, which will mean Anthem will be left with an inadequate network of ABA providers
* Families will be forced to choose between losing services, paying steep out-of-network costs to remain with their provider, or finding another provider who is in-network and being put on their wait list
* Wait lists for ABA providers in-network with Anthem are already upwards of 6 months long, and this rate cut will only increase that
* At best, disruptions in continuity of care and the provider/client therapeutic relationship will be harmful to any progress made over the course of treatment
* At worst, wait lists and loss of services will be devastating in terms of regression, prognosis, quality of life, and financial stability if forced out-of-network
* This rate cut continues Anthem’s long history of discrimination against individuals with autism and their families
* Anthem members, who believe they have quality insurance coverage, pay their premiums and abide by all other cost-sharing responsibilities, deserve better