



## Magellan Autism Connections<sup>SM</sup>

### Critical Need

*The prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is rising dramatically.* In 2007, the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network reported that about one out of every 150 children who are eight-years-old and born in the United States is diagnosed with a disorder along the autism spectrum.

### Defining ASD

*According to the CDC, autism spectrum disorders include autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder—not otherwise specified, and Asperger's syndrome.* The three conditions, along with Rett's syndrome and childhood disintegrative disorder, make up the broad diagnosis category of pervasive developmental disorders. The disorders are defined by significant impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests.<sup>1</sup>

### A National Call

*With a growing prevalence of ASD cases, there has been extensive media coverage regarding the disorders.* Moreover, the majority of states have passed or proposed legislation requiring health insurers to provide coverage for children with autism. Covered treatments for autism spectrum disorder often include physical, speech, occupational therapy, and behavioral interventions including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy. Legislation mandates coverage thresholds for treatments, which may include ABA, from about \$6,000 to \$50,000 per child per year. Additionally, some states call for coverage at parity with medical benefits which equates to no dollar limit on medically necessary services.<sup>2</sup> There has also been a movement by a number of self-funded employers, who are otherwise exempt from the legislation, to consider coverage of ASD or support services for parents who have children with autism. However, without some management of the benefit quality of care and cost escalation is a significant concern.

### Magellan Responds

Helping individuals and their families deal with autism requires a partner with expertise in addressing a special needs population with complex clinical and social scenarios and integrating care between behavioral and medical service providers. Magellan, an industry leader in behavioral health, now offers a comprehensive ASD solution to address this growing need.

Magellan Autism Connections<sup>SM</sup> offers a suite of services designed to:

- *ensure* members receive quality care across the full spectrum of autism disorders and service continuum;
- *help* our customers maximize their members' health outcomes in a cost effective manner;
- *enhance* the coordination of care of all members of the multidisciplinary team;
- *improve* the quality of life and productivity for our customers' members and families who have children with autism.

How? Through the following:

- *Comprehensive Benefits Management* including prior authorization and concurrent review and outcome monitoring for all levels of care against diagnostic and medical necessity criteria and clinical practice guidelines, including those newly developed for autism specific treatments. Magellan is also fully equipped to process and pay autism specific claims.
- *Care management* including outreach and care coordination. Magellan care managers educate families with children with ASD in all aspects of their condition and follow-up by providing linkages to community resources and facilitating communications between primary care, behavioral health providers and other members of their healthcare team.
- *Autism Specialty Provider Network* comprised of licensed providers with expertise in treating ASD and other providers certified in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques along with support staff overseen by the certified provider.
- *Resources such as web tools* including educational contacts, autism related articles, toolkits and guides and linkages to pertinent community supports.
- *Comprehensive Coaching Support* involving proactive outreach and coaching sessions for parents. Provided in an empowerment model, the sessions are designed to build self-management skills and facilitate the ongoing coordination of care—all with the goal of improving overall health and function of the child *as well as* the family unit.

## Value to you

With the expertise to empower individuals and families dealing with autism spectrum disorders, to improving the quality of their lives and meeting customers desire to providing high quality care and services to their members while managing costs, Magellan is the natural choice to deliver ASD behavioral benefits and coordinate care for all autism spectrum disorders related services. We bring value to you through:

- improved member health and functional outcomes through support for parents and families, care coordination, community resources and award-winning Web sites;
- improved quality of care through Magellan's Autism Specialty Provider Network which includes experts in treating autism spectrum disorder;
- improved service utilization by guiding the appropriate use based on medical necessity criteria resulting in cost effective use of ASD services and preventing avoidable and costly medical services;
- improved productivity of caretakers and other family members in the workplace.

An industry leader in the behavioral health sector with years of experience, Magellan Autism Connections<sup>SM</sup> offers solutions for autism spectrum disorders. We are your one behavioral health partner; committed to delivering results.

*Call us at 800.410.8312 to find out more about how we can put our experience to work for you.*

1. Autism Information Center. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention Website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
2. Based on a review of State Legislation

