

Discharge/Transition Policy

Continuing Stay Criteria

All of the following criteria are necessary for continuing treatment at this level of care:

- The individual's condition continues to meet admission criteria for Applied Behavioral Analysis, either due to continuation of presenting problems, or appearance of new problems or symptoms.
- There is a reasonable expectation that the individual will benefit from the continuation of ABA services.
- Treatment planning is individualized and appropriate to the individual's changing condition with realistic and specific goals and objectives stated. The treatment plan is updated based on treatment progress including the addition of new target behaviors.
- All services and treatment interventions are carefully structured to achieve optimum results in the most time efficient manner possible consistent with sound clinical practice. Expected benefit from all relevant modalities is documented.
- Progress in relation to specific symptoms or impairments is clearly evident and can be described in objective terms or there are clear benefits to treatment, but goals of treatment have not yet been achieved, or adjustments in the treatment plan to address lack of progress are evident.
- There is documented skills transfer to the individual and treatment transition planning from the beginning of treatment.
- There is a documented active attempt at coordination of care with relevant providers/caretakers, etc. when appropriate. If coordination is not successful, the reason(s) are documented.
- Unless contraindicated, family and/or significant others are actively involved in the treatment as required by the treatment plan, or active efforts being made and documented to involve them.

Discharge Criteria

The decision to discharge is a difficult clinical decision. This decision is not made without a careful review and analysis of the information regarding the child's condition and progress. Careful consideration is taken to ensure the needs of the child are at the center of the decision made. Children learn in various ways and in various settings with various people. Our goal is to teach children and prepare them for learning in naturalistic settings. Unfortunately, not all children with autism will achieve this with ABA therapy. If ABA is not helping the child learn, or is not needed to help the child learn then discontinuing ABA is in the best interest of the child.

These will be the guidelines for the implementation of this policy:

Any of the following criteria are sufficient for discharge from this level of care:

- The individual has achieved adequate stabilization of the challenging behavior and less-intensive modes of treatment are appropriate and indicated.
- The individual no longer meets admission criteria, or meets criteria for a less or more intensive service.
- Treatment is making the symptoms persistently worse.
- The individual is making progress towards treatment goals, as demonstrated by the absence of any documented meaningful (i.e., durable and generalized) measurable improvement or stabilization of challenging behavior and there is no reasonable expectation of progress.
- At the request of the family; or if the child is unable to participate because of medical, social, or psychological difficulties.