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What is autism?
Pervasive Developmental Disorders

- Autistic Disorder

- Asperger’s Disorder

- Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified

Autistic Disorder

- Spectrum from Mild to Severe
- Everyone on The Spectrum presents differently
- Remitting in nature
- No cure
- Progress depends upon:
  - Severity
  - Potential of the individual
  - Family
Deficits in Autism

- All people with ASD’s have Social Impairments
  - Impairments in non-verbal behaviors
  - Poor peer relationships
  - Lack of shared enjoyment
  - Lack of social reciprocity

Deficits in Autism

- Language Deficits
  - Delay or lack of language development
  - Poor pragmatics
  - Stereotyped or repetitive use of language
  - Lack of spontaneous make-believe play

Many of these issues are not seen in Asperger’s
Deficits in Autism

- Behavioral Issues
  - Preoccupations
  - Problems coping with change
  - Stereotyped or repetitive movements
  - Intense interests in parts or pieces of things

Deficits in Autism

- At least one of these issues must be present before the age of three.
  - Social Deficits
  - Language Deficits
  - Poor Play Skills

Individuals with Asperger’s do not have delays in either language of cognitive development.
Deficits in Autism

- Non-Diagnostic Characteristics
  - Poor Self Regulation
  - Sensory Integration Issues

Treatment Modalities

Empirically Validated Interventions

- Speech Therapy
- Behavioral Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
Treatment Modalities

Non Empirically Validated Interventions

- Gluten Free / Casin Free
- Chelation
- Mega Vitamins
- Barometric Chambers
- Listening Programs

A Good Resource
Non-Covered Benefits

- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
- Pivotal Response
- Floor Time
- Social Skills Groups

Kaiser-Permanente Services

- Case Managers in all Service Areas
- Autism Parent Skills Group
- Behavioral Health
  - Medication
  - Psychotherapy
  - Skill Builders Group for ages 7-11
  - Additional group treatments in development
Kaiser-Permanente Services

- Evaluations
  - Speech
  - Occupational therapy
  - Diagnosis

Political Ramifications

- Several states have laws requiring Medical Insurance Companies to pay the first $50K for ABA
- Regional Center Cut Backs
- School Cut Backs
Kaiser Covers Medically Necessary Tx.

Denial Letters

- Parents need to contact PCP
  - PCP forwards chart to Dr. Reiwerts
    - Have family contact main Member Services
      - Review Process and Denial Letter

- KP Lawsuits with DMHC