



SECTION 5: TIERED SERVICE-DELIVERY MODELS AND BEHAVIOR TECHNICIANS

Most ABA treatment programs involve a tiered service-delivery model in which the Behavior Analyst designs and supervises a treatment program delivered by Assistant Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians.

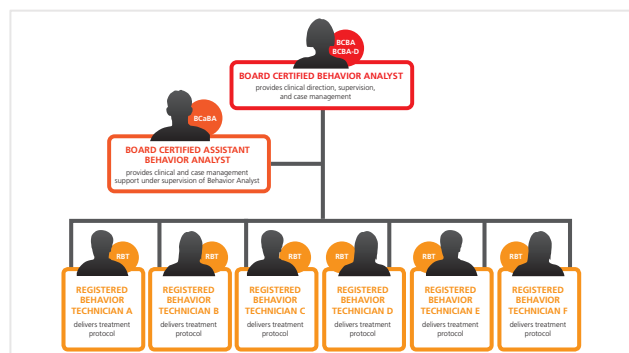
1 Description of a Tiered Service-Delivery Model

Behavior Analyst's clinical, supervisory, and case management activities are often supported by other staff such as Assistant Behavior Analysts working within the scope of their training, practice, and competence.

Following are two examples of tiered service-delivery models (among others), an organizational approach to treatment delivery considered cost-effective in delivering desired outcomes.

In the first example (below), the Behavior Analyst oversees a treatment team of Behavior Technicians.

In the second example (below), the Behavior Analyst is supported by an Assistant Behavior Analyst; the two of them jointly oversee a treatment team of Behavior Technicians.



Such models assume the following:

1. The BCBA or BCBA-D is responsible for all aspects of clinical direction, supervision, and case management, including activities of the support staff (for example, a BCaBA) and Behavior Technicians.
2. The BCBA or BCBA-D must have knowledge of each member of the treatment team's ability to effectively carry out clinical activities before assigning them.
3. The BCBA and BCBA-D must be familiar with the client's needs and treatment plan and regularly observe the Behavior Technician implementing the plan, regardless of whether or not there is clinical support provided by a BCaBA.

2 Rationales for a Tiered Service-Delivery Model

- Tiered service-delivery models that rely on the use of Assistant Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians have been the primary mechanism for achieving many of the significant improvements in cognitive, language, social, behavioral, and adaptive domains that have been documented in the peer-reviewed literature.⁴
- The use of carefully trained and well-supervised Assistant Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians is a common practice in ABA treatment.^{5,6}
- Their use produces more cost-effective levels of service for the duration of treatment.
- The use of tiered service-delivery model enables healthcare funders and managers to ensure adequate provider networks and deliver medically necessary treatment.
- It additionally permits sufficient expertise to be delivered to each client at the level needed to reach treatment goals. This is critical as the level of supervision required may shift rapidly in response to client progress or need.
- Tiered service-delivery models can also help with treatment delivery to families in rural and underserved areas, as well as clients and families who have complex needs.