



Clinical Resources Used for Medical Necessity Determinations When No Other UM Clinical Criteria or Guideline Exists

LOB(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare	State(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Idaho <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montana <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon

Enterprise Policy

PacificSource is committed to assessing and applying current regulatory standards, widely-used treatment guidelines, and evidenced-based clinical literature when developing clinical criteria for coverage determination. Each policy contains a list of sources (references) that serves as the summary of evidence used in the development and adoption of the criteria. The evidence was considered to ensure the criteria provide clinical benefits that promote patient safety and/or access to appropriate care. Each clinical policy is reviewed, updated as needed, and readopted, at least annually, to reflect changes in regulation, new evidence, and advancements in healthcare.

Clinical Guidelines are written when necessary to provide guidance to providers and members in order to outline and clarify coverage criteria in accordance with the terms of the Member's policy. This Clinical Guideline only applies to PacificSource Health Plans, PacificSource Community Health Plans, and PacificSource Community Solutions in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Because of the changing nature of medicine, this list is subject to revision and update without notice. This document is designed for informational purposes only and is not an authorization or contract. Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Member's policy. Member policies differ in benefits and to the extent a conflict exists between the Clinical Guideline and the Member's policy, the Member's policy language shall control. Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice nor guarantee coverage.

Background

PacificSource Utilization Management (UM) staff evaluates medical necessity, appropriateness, and efficacy of proposed or provided service requests by utilizing standardized criteria and guidelines that are in accordance with evidence-based standards for physical health (medical), behavioral health, and oral health services which:

- Are recognized nationally, and, for Medicaid, required at the State level
- Reflect community standards of care, when appropriate
- Ensures quality of care and access to needed health care services

Multiple aspects of the criteria or guidelines may be utilized to fully evaluate the services, including inpatient and length of stay criteria. Physical health (medical), behavioral health, and oral health care and services are treated comparably throughout the UM process and consider parity and health equity components in the review and use of clinical policies and sources.

This policy outlines resources used to review a request for medical necessity when there are no standardized criteria or guidelines available.

Criteria

Commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare

There may be more than one set of criteria available for any given procedure or service. Medical necessity determinations under the applicable health plan benefit are based on a hierarchy of clinical policies and care guidelines (See Related Policy: Clinical Criteria Used in UM Decisions policy for hierarchy of criteria). Criteria from the highest-ranking source available should be used unless otherwise indicated. When there are no standardized criteria or guidelines available, PacificSource will use evidence-based resources, such as those noted below, which may be used with a Third Level Reviewer (e.g., Medical Director, BH Medical Director, or practitioner designee) review.

The utilization of resources may vary depending on the treatment and services being reviewed and may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information
- American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Quality Care Guidelines, Recommendations, and Criteria
- Bree Collaborative
- Carelon Medical Benefits Management clinical guidelines
- CMS Guidelines (National Coverage Determination (NCD) and Local Coverage Determination (LCD))
- Cochrane Collaboration
- CVS Caremark Pharmacy and Specialty Pharmacy criteria
- Expert External Professional Reviews
- Facts and Comparison®
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- symplr Evidence Analysis (formerly known as Hayes Knowledge Center)
- Lexicomp®
- MCG™ Care Guidelines
- MEDLINE® (component of PubMed®)
- Micromedex®
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
- Oregon Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC)
- Oregon Prioritized List.
- PacificSource clinical policies (criteria and guidelines).
- Peer-reviewed medical literature, databases, or pertinent scientific articles.

- Professional Societies Recommendations and Practice Guidelines (A list of professional societies are listed under references, but are not limited to the examples listed)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- State Licensing Boards
- UpToDate®
- U.S. Pharmacopoeia Dispensing Information
- Washington State Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

Definitions

Professional Societies - Specialty societies that represent licensed or certified physical, behavioral, or oral health specialties.

Related Policies

Clinical Criteria Used in UM Decisions

Medical Necessity Reviews

Preventive and Clinical Practice Guidelines

UM Program Description

Unlisted and Unspecified Procedure Codes

Use of Board-Certified Consultants

References

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) - Clinical Information.

<https://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/evidence-based-reports/index.html>

American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information. <https://www.ashp.org/pharmacy-practice/policy-positions-and-guidelines>

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Quality Care Guidelines, Recommendations, and Criteria. <https://www.asam.org/quality-care>

Carelon Medical Benefits Management clinical guidelines. <https://guidelines.carelonmedicalbenefitsmanagement.com/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicare Coverage Database (MCD). <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search.aspx>

Cochrane Collaboration. <https://www.cochrane.org/>

CVS Caremark Pharmacy. Specialty Pharmacy Services, Information and Forms.

https://www.caremark.com/wps/portal/SPECIALTY_PHARMACY#:~:text=Specialty%20pharmaceuticals,safe%20and%20cost%20effective%20use

Idaho Board of Dentistry. <https://dopl.idaho.gov/bod/>

Foundation for Health Care Quality. Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative. <https://www.qualityhealth.org/bree/>

Montana Board of Dentistry. <https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/dentistry/>

National Comprehensive Cancer Network®. <https://www.nccn.org/>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). <https://www.nice.org.uk/>

National Library of Medicine. <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/>

National Library of Medicine. Clinical Trials. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/>

National Library of Medicine - PUBMED. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

Oregon Board of Dentistry. <https://www.oregon.gov/dentistry/pages/index.aspx>

Oregon Health Authority. Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC). Coverage Guidance & Reports on Multisector Interventions. <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/DSI-HERC/Pages/Evidence-based-Reports.aspx>

Oregon Health Authority. Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC). Prioritized List of Health Services. <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/DSI-HERC/Pages/Prioritized-List.aspx>

PacificSource. Clinical Policies and Practice Guidelines. <https://pacificsource.com/providers/clinical-policies-and-practice-guidelines>

Professional Societies (include, but not limited to):

- American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology <http://www.aaaai.org>
- American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Resources_for_Primary_Care/Practice_Parameters_and_Resource_Centers/Practice_Parameters.aspx
- American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) <http://www.aad.org>
- American Academy of Neurology® (AAN) <http://www.aan.com>
- American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) <https://www.aao.org/>
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) <http://www.aaos.org>
- American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) <http://www.entnet.org>
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) <http://www.aap.org>
- American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) <http://www.aapmr.org>
- American Academy of Dental Consultants (AADC) <https://www.aadc.org/>
- American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) <https://www.aans.org/>
- American College of Emergency Physicians® (ACEP) <https://www.acep.org/>
- American College of PhysiciansSM (ACP) <http://www.acponline.org>
- American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) <http://www.acpm.org>

- American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) <http://www.acmg.net>
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) <http://www.acoem.org>
- American College of Surgeons (ACS) <http://www.facs.org>
- American College of Radiology (ACR®) <http://www.acr.org>
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) <http://www.acog.org>
- American Dental Association (ADA) <https://www.ada.org/>
- American Psychiatric Association (APA) <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/clinical-practice-guidelines>
- American Psychological Association <https://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/>
- American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology ASTRO <https://www.astro.org/>
- American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) <http://www.ascp.org>
- American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA) <https://www.asahq.org/>
- American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) <http://www.fascrs.org>
- American Society of Plastic Surgeons® (ASPS) <http://www.plasticsurgery.org>
- American Urological Association (AUA) <https://www.auanet.org/guidelines-and-quality/guidelines>
- College of American Pathologists (CAP) <http://www.cap.org>
- National Association of Dental Plans (NADP) <https://www.nadp.org/>
- Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) <http://www.sts.org/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (n.d.). Evidence-based practices resource center. <https://www.samhsa.gov/resource-search/ebp>

sympplr Evidence Analysis (formerly known as Hayes Knowledge Center). <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). <http://www.fda.gov>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Medical Devices. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices>

Washington State. Health Technology Assessment (HTA). <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/health-technology-assessment/health-technology-reviews>

Washington State Department of Health. Dentistry Board. <https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/professions-new-renew-or-update/dentist/licensing-requirements>

Wolters Kluwer. Facts and Comparisons: Drug Referential Resource. <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/solutions/uptodate/enterprise/lexidrug-facts-and-comparisons>

Wolters Kluwer. UpToDate®. <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/solutions/uptodate>

Appendix

Policy Number:

Effective: 11/1/2025

Next review: 5/1/2027

Policy type: Enterprise

Author(s):

Depts.: Health Services

Applicable regulation(s): N/A

External entities affected: N/A

OPs Approval: 3/2026