

## **General Clinical Guidelines Criteria**

### **Instructions for Use**

This policy serves to provide guidance in determining coverage based on medical necessity. It also gives a list of resources used to create these guidelines. Medical necessity determinations will be made in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice, taking into account credible scientific evidence published in peer reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, physician specialty society recommendations, and the views of the physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors, as they relate to the member's clinical circumstances.

### **Medicare Advantage Members**

Coverage criteria for Medicare Advantage members can be found in Medicare coverage guidelines in statutes, regulations, National Coverage Determinations (NCD)s, and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD)s. To determine if a National or Local Coverage Determination addresses coverage for a specific service, refer to the Medicare Coverage Database at the following link: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search.aspx>. You may wish to review the Guide to the MCD Search here: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/help/mcd-bene-help.aspx>

When coverage criteria are not fully established in applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs or LCDs, internal coverage criteria will be developed. A summary of evidence, a list of the sources, and an explanation of the rationale that support the adoption of the coverage criteria will be included.

In addition to specific internal coverage criteria policies, the health plan may adopt criteria developed and maintained by other organizations, including a parent organization or health plan. Licensed Criteria may also be applied to certain services. InterQual Level of Care (LOC) criteria is currently used to support medical necessity and level of care reviews.

In the absence of a specific internal coverage criteria policy, Licensed Criteria, or specific Medicare coverage guidelines as referenced above for Medicare Advantage members, these guidelines will apply. These guidelines will be used by all plans and lines of business unless Federal or State law, contract language, including member or provider contracts, take precedence over this guideline.

### **Basic Requirements for Clinical Appropriateness:**

1. Before diagnostic or therapeutic intervention, a clinician must confirm the diagnosis or establish the likelihood based on a history and physical exam and, when appropriate, a review of laboratory studies, previous diagnostic testing and response to any prior interventions, specifically relevant to the clinical situation.
2. An alternative treatment or other appropriate intervention should not offer any greater benefit based on standards of medical practice and/or current literature.

3. The potential benefit to the patient should outweigh the risk of the diagnostic or therapeutic intervention.
4. A reasonable likelihood of the intervention changing management and/or leading to an improved outcome for the patient must exist, based on the clinical evaluation, current literature and standards of medical practice.

If these requirements are not apparent in the request for authorization, including the clinical documentation provided, the determination of appropriateness will most likely require a peer-to-peer conversation to understand the individual and unique facts that would supersede the requirements set forth above. During the peer-to-peer conversation, factors such as patient acuity and setting of service may also be taken into account.

Simultaneous ordering of multiple diagnostic or therapeutic interventions and/or repeated diagnostic or therapeutic interventions in the same anatomic area may be denied, unless individual circumstances support the medical necessity of performing interventions simultaneously or repeatedly. This should be apparent in the clinical documentation or in peer-to-peer conversations.

### Approved Resources for Use in Medical Necessity Determinations

#### Government Agency, Medical Society, and Other Authoritative Publications:

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) – Clinical Information. Available at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.
2. American Board of Medical Specialties. Specialty and Subspecialty Certificates. 2022. Available at: <http://www.abms.org/member-boards/specialty-subspecialty-certificates/>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.
4. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search.aspx>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.
5. National Library of Medicine – PUBMED. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.
6. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Available at: <http://www.fda.gov>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.
7. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Available at <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on December 6, 2023.
8. Physician specialty societies where publicly available:

General Certificate(s)	Specialty Society (+) Indicates Guidelines Publicly Available (-) Indicates Guidelines Not Publicly Available	Subspecialty Certificate(s)
Allergy and Immunology	American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology (AAAAI) (+) <a href="http://www.aaaai.org">http://www.aaaai.org</a> American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) (+) <a href="https://acaai.org/">https://acaai.org/</a>	None
Anesthesiology	American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA) (+)	1. Critical Care Medicine

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	For additional information visit the ASA website: <a href="https://www.asahq.org/">https://www.asahq.org/</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospice and Palliative Medicine</li> <li>Pain Medicine</li> <li>Pediatric Anesthesiology</li> <li>Sleep Medicine</li> </ol>
Colon and Rectal Surgery	American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) (+) <a href="http://www.fascrs.org">http://www.fascrs.org</a>	None
Dermatology	American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) (+) <a href="http://www.aad.org">http://www.aad.org</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dermatopathology</li> <li>Pediatric Dermatology</li> </ol>
Emergency Medicine	American College of Emergency Physicians® (ACEP) (+) <a href="https://www.acep.org/">https://www.acep.org/</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine</li> <li>Emergency Medical Services</li> <li>Hospice and Palliative Medicine</li> <li>Internal Medicine- Critical Care Medicine</li> <li>Medical Toxicology</li> <li>Pain Medicine</li> <li>Pediatric Emergency Medicine</li> <li>Sports Medicine</li> <li>Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine</li> </ol>
Family Medicine	American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP) (-) <a href="http://www.aafp.org">http://www.aafp.org</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adolescent Medicine</li> <li>Geriatric Medicine</li> <li>Hospice and Palliative Medicine</li> <li>Pain Medicine</li> <li>Sleep Medicine</li> <li>Sports Medicine</li> </ol>
Internal Medicine	American College of Physicians <sup>SM</sup> (ACP) (+) <a href="http://www.acponline.org">http://www.acponline.org</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adolescent Medicine</li> <li>Adult Congenital Heart Disease</li> <li>Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology</li> <li>Cardiovascular Disease</li> <li>Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology</li> <li>Critical Care Medicine</li> <li>Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism</li> <li>Gastroenterology</li> <li>Geriatric Medicine</li> <li>Hematology</li> </ol>

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		11. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 12. Infectious Disease 13. Interventional Cardiology 14. Medical Oncology 15. Nephrology 16. Pulmonary Disease 17. Rheumatology 18. Sleep Medicine 19. Sports Medicine 20. Transplant Hepatology
Medical Genetics  1. Clinical Biochemical Genetics 2. Clinical Cytogenetics and Genomics 3. Clinical Genetics and Genomics (MD) 4. Clinical Molecular Genetics and Genomics 5. Laboratory Genetics and Genomics	American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) (+) <a href="http://www.acmg.net">http://www.acmg.net</a>	1. Medical Biochemical Genetics 2. Molecular Genetic Pathology
Neurological Surgery	American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) (+) For additional information visit the AANS website: <a href="https://www.aans.org/">https://www.aans.org/</a>	None
Nuclear Medicine	American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) (-) <a href="http://www.acnmonline.org">http://www.acnmonline.org</a>	None
Obstetrics and Gynecology	American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) (-) <a href="http://www.acog.org">http://www.acog.org</a>	1. Critical Care Medicine 2. Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery 3. Gynecologic Oncology 4. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 5. Maternal and Fetal Medicine 6. Reproductive Endocrinology/ Infertility
Ophthalmology	American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) (+) For additional information visit the AAO website: <a href="https://www.aao.org/">https://www.aao.org/</a>	None
Orthopaedic Surgery	American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) (+) <a href="http://www.aaos.org">http://www.aaos.org</a>	1. Orthopaedic Sports Medicine 2. Surgery of the Hand

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Otolaryngology	American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) (+) <a href="http://www.entnet.org">http://www.entnet.org</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Neurotology</li> <li>2. Pediatric Otolaryngology</li> <li>3. Plastic Surgery Within the Head and Neck</li> <li>4. Sleep Medicine</li> </ol>
Pathology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pathology-Anatomic/ Pathology-Clinical</li> <li>2. Pathology-Anatomic</li> <li>3. Pathology-Clinical</li> </ol>	College of American Pathologists (CAP) (+) <a href="http://www.cap.org">http://www.cap.org</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine</li> <li>2. Clinical Informatics</li> <li>3. Cytopathology</li> <li>4. Dermatopathology</li> <li>5. Neuropathology</li> <li>6. Pathology – Chemical</li> <li>7. Pathology – Forensic</li> <li>8. Pathology – Hematology</li> <li>9. Pathology – Medical Microbiology</li> <li>10. Pathology – Molecular Genetic</li> <li>11. Pathology - Pediatric</li> </ol>
	American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) (+) <a href="http://www.ascp.org">http://www.ascp.org</a>	
Pediatrics	American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) (+) <a href="http://www.aap.org">http://www.aap.org</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adolescent Medicine</li> <li>2. Child Abuse Pediatrics</li> <li>3. Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics</li> <li>4. Hospice and Palliative Medicine</li> <li>5. Medical Toxicology</li> <li>6. Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine</li> <li>7. Neurodevelopmental Disabilities</li> <li>8. Pediatric Cardiology</li> <li>9. Pediatric Critical Care Medicine</li> <li>10. Pediatric Emergency Medicine</li> <li>11. Pediatric Endocrinology</li> <li>12. Pediatric Gastroenterology</li> <li>13. Pediatric Hematology-Oncology</li> <li>14. Pediatric Hospital Medicine</li> <li>15. Pediatric Infectious Diseases</li> <li>16. Pediatric Nephrology</li> <li>17. Pediatric Pulmonology</li> <li>18. Pediatric Rheumatology</li> <li>19. Pediatric Transplant Hepatology</li> </ol>

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		20. Sleep Medicine 21. Sports Medicine
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPMR) (-) <a href="http://www.aapmr.org">http://www.aapmr.org</a>	1. Brain Injury Medicine 2. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 3. Neuromuscular Medicine 4. Pain Medicine 5. Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine 6. Spinal Cord Injury Medicine 7. Sports Medicine
Plastic Surgery	American Society of Plastic Surgeons® (ASPS) (+) <a href="http://www.plasticsurgery.org">http://www.plasticsurgery.org</a>	1. Plastic Surgery Within the Head and Neck 2. Surgery of the Hand
Preventive Medicine  1. Aerospace Medicine 2. Occupational Medicine 3. Public Health and General Preventive Medicine	American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) (-) <a href="http://www.acpm.org">http://www.acpm.org</a>  American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) (-) <a href="http://www.acoem.org">http://www.acoem.org</a>	1. Addiction Medicine 2. Clinical Informatics 3. Medical Toxicology 4. Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine
Psychiatry and Neurology  1. Psychiatry 2. Neurology 3. Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology	American Psychiatric Association (APA) (+) <a href="http://www.psych.org">http://www.psych.org</a>  American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) (+) <a href="http://www.aacap.org">http://www.aacap.org</a>  American Academy of Neurology® (AAN) (+) <a href="http://www.aan.com">http://www.aan.com</a> Child Neurology Society (CNS) (-) <a href="http://www.childneurologysociety.org">http://www.childneurologysociety.org</a>	1. Addiction Psychiatry 2. Brain Injury Medicine 3. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 4. Clinical Neurophysiology 5. Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry 6. Epilepsy 7. Forensic Psychiatry 8. Geriatric Psychiatry 9. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 10. Neurocritical Care* 11. Neurodevelopmental Disabilities 12. Neuromuscular Medicine 13. Pain Medicine 14. Sleep Medicine 15. Vascular Neurology

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Radiology  1. Diagnostic Medical Physics 2. Diagnostic Radiology 3. Interventional Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology 4. Nuclear Medical Physics 5. Radiation Oncology 6. Therapeutic Medical Physics	American College of Radiology (ACR®) (+) <a href="http://www.acr.org">http://www.acr.org</a> <i>NOTE: Do not confuse with American College of Rheumatology</i>  American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology ASTRO (+) For additional information visit the ASTRO website: <a href="https://www.astro.org/">https://www.astro.org/</a>	1. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 2. Neuroradiology 3. Nuclear Radiology 4. Pediatric Radiology 5. Vascular and Interventional Radiology
Surgery and Vascular Surgery	American College of Surgeons (ACS) (+) <a href="http://www.facs.org">http://www.facs.org</a> <i>NOTE: Do not confuse with American Cancer Society.</i>	1. Complex General Surgical Oncology 2. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 3. Pediatric Surgery 4. Surgery of the Hand 5. Surgical Critical Care
Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery	Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) (+) <a href="http://www.sts.org/">http://www.sts.org/</a>	1. Congenital Cardiac Surgery
Urology	American Urological Association (AUA) (+) For additional information visit the AUA website: <a href="https://www.auanet.org/guidelines-and-quality/guidelines">https://www.auanet.org/guidelines-and-quality/guidelines</a>	1. Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery 2. Pediatric Urology

#### **Subspecialty Societies**

<b>Subspecialty Certificate</b>	<b>Specialty Society</b> (+) Indicates Guidelines Publicly Available (-) Indicates Guidelines Not Publicly Available
Cardiology	American College of Cardiology (ACC) (+) <a href="http://www.acc.org">http://www.acc.org</a> Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) (+) <a href="http://www.scai.org/Default.aspx">http://www.scai.org/Default.aspx</a>
Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology	Heart Rhythm Society <sup>SM</sup> (HRS) (+) (collaborative with ACC) <a href="http://www.hrsonline.org/">http://www.hrsonline.org/</a>
Critical Care Medicine	Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) (+) For additional information visit the SCCM website: <a href="http://www.sccm.org/Home">http://www.sccm.org/Home</a>
Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism	American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists AACE (+) <a href="http://www.aace.com">http://www.aace.com</a>

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	Endocrine Society (-) <a href="http://www.endo-society.org">http://www.endo-society.org</a>
Gastroenterology	American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) (+) <a href="https://gi.org/">https://gi.org/</a> American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) (+) <a href="http://www.gastro.org">http://www.gastro.org</a> Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons SAGES (+) <a href="https://www.sages.org/">https://www.sages.org/</a>
Geriatric Medicine	American Geriatrics Society (AGS) (+) <a href="http://www.americangeriatrics.org">http://www.americangeriatrics.org</a>
Geriatric Psychiatry	American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) (-) <a href="http://www.aagponline.org/">http://www.aagponline.org/</a>
Gynecologic Oncology	Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) (+) <a href="http://www.sgo.org">http://www.sgo.org</a>
Hematology	American Society of Hematology (ASH) (+) <a href="http://www.hematology.org">http://www.hematology.org</a>
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) (+) <a href="http://www.aahpm.org">http://www.aahpm.org</a>
Infectious Disease	Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) (+) <a href="http://www.idsociety.org">http://www.idsociety.org</a>
Medical Toxicology	American College of Medical Toxicology (+) <a href="http://www.acmt.net">http://www.acmt.net</a>
Nephrology	American Society of Nephrology (ASN) (-) <a href="http://www.asn-online.org">http://www.asn-online.org</a>
Neuromuscular	American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) (+) <a href="http://www.aanem.org/Home.aspx">http://www.aanem.org/Home.aspx</a>
Neuroradiology	American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR) (-) <a href="http://www.asnr.org">http://www.asnr.org</a>
Oncology	American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO®) (+) <a href="http://www.asco.org">http://www.asco.org</a>
Pain Medicine	American Chronic Pain Association (ACPA) (+) <a href="https://www.acpanow.com/">https://www.acpanow.com/</a> American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) (+) <a href="https://painmed.org/">https://painmed.org/</a>
Pulmonary Disease	American College of Chest Physicians® (ACCP) (+) <a href="http://www.chestnet.org">http://www.chestnet.org</a>
Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility	American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) (+) <a href="http://www.asrm.org">http://www.asrm.org</a>



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Rheumatology	American College of Rheumatology (ACR) (+) For additional information visit the ACR website: <a href="http://www.rheumatology.org/">http://www.rheumatology.org/</a> <i>NOTE: Do not confuse with American College of Radiology</i>
Sleep Medicine	American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) (+) <a href="http://www.aasmnet.org">http://www.aasmnet.org</a>
Sports Medicine	American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) (-) <a href="http://www.sportsmed.org">http://www.sportsmed.org</a>
Surgery of the Hand	American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) (-) <a href="https://www.assh.org/">https://www.assh.org/</a>
Transplant Hepatology	American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) (+) <a href="http://www.aasld.org">http://www.aasld.org</a>
	American Society of Transplantation (AST) (+) <a href="https://www.myast.org/">https://www.myast.org/</a>
Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine	Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) (+) <a href="https://www.uhms.org/">https://www.uhms.org/</a>
Vascular and Interventional Radiology	Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) (+) <a href="http://www.sirweb.org">http://www.sirweb.org</a>
Vascular Surgery	Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) (+) <a href="http://www.vascularweb.org/">www.vascularweb.org/</a>

#### Reference for Basic Requirements for Clinical Appropriateness

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3. BMJ Best Practice. EBM Toolkit: What is GRADE? United Kingdom: BMJ Publishing Group Limited; 2023. <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/info/us/toolkit/learn-ebm/what-is-grade/>
4. Fryback DG, Thornbury JR. The efficacy of diagnostic imaging. Medical decision making: an international journal of the Society for Medical Decision Making. 1991;11(2):88-94.
5. Gazelle GS, Kessler L, Lee DW, et al. A framework for assessing the value of diagnostic imaging in the era of comparative effectiveness research. Radiology. 2011;261(3):692-8.
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10. Slomiany M, Madhavan P, Kuehn M, et al. Value Frameworks in Oncology: Comparative Analysis and Implications to the Pharmaceutical Industry. *American health & drug benefits*. 2017;10(5):253-60.
11. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Procedure Manual. Rockville, MD: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force; 2021.
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**Policy Number: MNG-001**

**Date: 12-27-23**