

General Clinical Guidelines Criteria

Medicare Advantage Medical Policy No: MNG-01

Original Effective Date: 12/27/2023

Current Effective Date: 01/01/2025

Applies to all products administered or underwritten by the Health Plan, unless otherwise provided in the applicable contract. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

Policy Guidelines

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.

When Services May Be Eligible for Coverage

Coverage for eligible medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products may be provided only if:

- *Benefits are available in the member's contract/certificate, and*
- *Medical necessity criteria and guidelines are met.*

Based on review of available data, the Health Plan may consider the use of the following General Clinical Guidelines when ALL criteria for the applicable procedure, service and/or treatment are met to be **eligible for coverage****.

Rationale/Source

This medical policy was developed through consideration of peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status, nationally accepted standards of medical practice and accepted standards of medical practice in this community, technology evaluation centers, reference to federal regulations, other plan medical policies, and accredited national guidelines.

Approved Resources for Use in Medical Necessity Determinations

Government Agency, Medical Society, and Other Authoritative Publications:

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1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) – Clinical Information. Available at: [Home | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(ahrq.gov\)](https://www.ahrq.gov). Accessed on October 14, 2024.
2. American Board of Medical Specialties. Specialty and Subspecialty Certificates. 2022. Available at: <http://www.abms.org/member-boards/specialty-subspecialty-certificates/>. Accessed on October 14, 2024
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov>. Accessed on October 14, 2024.
4. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search.aspx>. Accessed on October 14, 2024.
5. National Library of Medicine – PUBMED. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>. Accessed on October 14, 2024.
6. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Available at: <http://www.fda.gov>. Accessed on October 14, 2024.
7. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Available at <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on October 14, 2024.
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) (+) http://www.aaaai.org American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) (+) https://acaai.org/	None
Anesthesiology	American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA) (+) For additional information visit the ASA website: https://www.asahq.org/	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical Care Medicine 2. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 3. Pain Medicine 4. Pediatric Anesthesiology 5. Sleep Medicine
Colon and Rectal Surgery	American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) (+) http://www.fascrs.org	None
Dermatology	American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) (+) http://www.aad.org	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dermatopathology 2. Pediatric Dermatology
Emergency Medicine	American College of Emergency Physicians® (ACEP) (+) https://www.acep.org/	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine 2. Emergency Medical Services 3. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 4. Internal Medicine-Critical Care Medicine 5. Medical Toxicology 6. Pain Medicine

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General Certificate(s)	Specialty Society (+) Indicates Guidelines Publicly Available (-) Indicates Guidelines Not Publicly Available	Subspecialty Certificate(s)
		7. Pediatric Emergency Medicine 8. Sports Medicine 9. Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine
Family Medicine	American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP) (-) http://www.aafp.org	1. Adolescent Medicine 2. Geriatric Medicine 3. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 4. Pain Medicine 5. Sleep Medicine 6. Sports Medicine
Internal Medicine	American College of Physicians SM (ACP) (+) http://www.acponline.org	1. Adolescent Medicine 2. Adult Congenital Heart Disease 3. Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology 4. Cardiovascular Disease 5. Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology 6. Critical Care Medicine 7. Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism 8. Gastroenterology 9. Geriatric Medicine 10. Hematology 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	American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) (+) http://www.acmg.net	1. Medical Biochemical Genetics

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Molecular Genetic Pathology
Neurological Surgery	American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) (+) For additional information visit the AANS website: https://www.aans.org/	None
Nuclear Medicine	American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) (-) http://www.acnmonline.org	None
Obstetrics and Gynecology	American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) (-) http://www.acog.org	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: https://www.aao.org/	None
Orthopaedic Surgery	American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) (+) http://www.aaos.org	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orthopaedic Sports Medicine 2. Surgery of the Hand
Otolaryngology	American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) (+) http://www.entnet.org	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neurotology 2. Pediatric Otolaryngology 3. Plastic Surgery Within the Head and Neck

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		4. Sleep Medicine
Pathology 1. Pathology-Anatomic/ Pathology-Clinical 2. Pathology-Anatomic 3. Pathology-Clinical	College of American Pathologists (CAP) (+) http://www.cap.org American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) (+) http://www.ascp.org	1. Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine 2. Clinical Informatics 3. Cytopathology 4. Dermatopathology 5. Neuropathology 6. Pathology – Chemical 7. Pathology – Forensic 8. Pathology – Hematology 9. Pathology – Medical Microbiology 10. Pathology – Molecular Genetic 11. Pathology - Pediatric
Pediatrics	American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) (+) http://www.aap.org	1. Adolescent Medicine 2. Child Abuse Pediatrics 3. Developmental- Behavioral Pediatrics 4. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 5. Medical Toxicology 6. Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine 7. Neurodevelopmental Disabilities 8. Pediatric Cardiology 9. Pediatric Critical Care Medicine 10. Pediatric Emergency Medicine 11. Pediatric Endocrinology 12. Pediatric Gastroenterology 13. Pediatric Hematology- Oncology 14. Pediatric Hospital Medicine 15. Pediatric Infectious Diseases 16. Pediatric Nephrology

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		17. Pediatric Pulmonology 18. Pediatric Rheumatology 19. Pediatric Transplant Hepatology 20. Sleep Medicine 21. Sports Medicine
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) (-) http://www.aapmr.org	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) (+) http://www.plasticsurgery.org	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 (AAPM) (-) http://www.acpm.org American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) (-) http://www.acoem.org	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) (+) http://www.psych.org American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) (+) http://www.aacap.org American Academy of Neurology® (AAN) (+) http://www.aan.com Child Neurology Society (CNS) (-) http://www.childneurologysociety.org	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

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		9. Hospice and Palliative Medicine 10. Neurocritical Care* 11. Neurodevelopmental Disabilities 12. Neuromuscular Medicine 13. Pain Medicine 14. Sleep Medicine 15. Vascular Neurology
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®) (+) http://www.acr.org <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: https://www.astro.org/	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) (+) http://www.facs.org <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) (+) http://www.sts.org/	1. Congenital Cardiac Surgery
Urology	American Urological Association (AUA) (+) For additional information visit the AUA website: https://www.auanet.org/guidelines-and-quality/guidelines	1. Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery 2. Pediatric Urology

Subspecialty Societies

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Cardiology	American College of Cardiology (ACC) (+) http://www.acc.org Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) (+) http://www.scai.org/Default.aspx
Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology	Heart Rhythm Society SM (HRS) (+) (collaborative with ACC) http://www.hrsonline.org/
Critical Care Medicine	Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) (+) For additional information visit the SCCM website: http://www.sccm.org/Home
Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism	American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists AACE (+) http://www.aace.com
	Endocrine Society (-) http://www.endo-society.org
Gastroenterology	American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) (+) https://gi.org/
	American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) (+) http://www.gastro.org
	Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons SAGES (+) https://www.sages.org/
Geriatric Medicine	American Geriatrics Society (AGS) (+) http://www.americangeriatrics.org
Geriatric Psychiatry	American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) (-) http://www.aagponline.org/
Gynecologic Oncology	Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) (+) http://www.sgo.org
Hematology	American Society of Hematology (ASH) (+) http://www.hematology.org

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Hospice and Palliative Medicine	American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) (+) http://www.aahpm.org
Infectious Disease	Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) (+) http://www.idsociety.org
Medical Toxicology	American College of Medical Toxicology (+) http://www.acmt.net
Nephrology	American Society of Nephrology (ASN) (-) http://www.asn-online.org
Neuromuscular	American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) (+) http://www.aanem.org/Home.aspx
Neuroradiology	American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR) (-) http://www.asnr.org
Oncology	American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO®) (+) http://www.asco.org
Pain Medicine	American Chronic Pain Association (ACPA) (+) https://www.acpanow.com/
	American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) (+) https://painmed.org/
Pulmonary Disease	American College of Chest Physicians® (ACCP) (+) http://www.chestnet.org
Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility	American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) (+) http://www.asrm.org
Rheumatology	American College of Rheumatology (ACR) (+) For additional information visit the ACR website: http://www.rheumatology.org/ <i>NOTE: Do not confuse with American College of Radiology</i>
Sleep Medicine	American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) (+) http://www.aasmnet.org
Sports Medicine	American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) (-) http://www.sportsmed.org
Surgery of the Hand	American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) (-) https://www.assh.org/
Transplant Hepatology	American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) (+) http://www.aasld.org
	American Society of Transplantation (AST) (+) https://www.myast.org/

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Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine	Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) (+) https://www.uhms.org/
Vascular and Interventional Radiology	Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) (+) http://www.sirweb.org
Vascular Surgery	Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) (+) www.vascularweb.org/

References for Basic Requirements for Clinical Appropriateness

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Methods Guide for Medical Test Reviews. AHRQ Publication No. 12-EC017. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2012. p. 188.
2. American Medical Association. Specialty Guide: Pathology. Chicago, IL: American Medical Association; 2020. p. 4.
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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.
6. Herndon JH, Hwang R, Bozic KJ. Healthcare technology and technology assessment. European spine journal: official publication of the European Spine Society, the European Spinal Deformity Society, and the European Section of the Cervical Spine Research Society. 2007;16(8):1293-302.
7. Institute of Medicine (US) Committee for Evaluating Medical Technologies in Clinical Use. Assessing Medical Technologies. 3, Methods of Technology Assessment. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 1985.
8. Lee DW, Neumann PJ, Rizzo JA. Understanding the medical and nonmedical value of diagnostic testing. Value in health: the journal of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. 2010;13(2):310-4.
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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 History

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12/23/2023 New policy created.

12/27/2023 Utilization Management Committee review and approval. New Policy.

10/15/2024 Policy reviewed and revised.

10/15/2024 Utilization Management Committee review and approval. Reference sources updated. No substantive changes made.

****Medically Necessary (or “Medical Necessity”)** - Health care services, treatment, procedures, equipment, drugs, devices, items or supplies that a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

- A. In accordance with nationally accepted standards of medical practice;
- B. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, level of care, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease; and
- C. Not primarily for the personal comfort or convenience of the patient, physician or other health care provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease.

For these purposes, “nationally accepted standards of medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

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NOTICE: If the Patient's health insurance contract contains language that differs from the Health Plan Medical Policy definition noted above, the definition in the health insurance contract will be relied upon for specific coverage determinations.

NOTICE: Medical Policies are scientific based opinions, provided solely for coverage and informational purposes. Medical Policies should not be construed to suggest that the Health Plan recommends, advocates, requires, encourages, or discourages any particular treatment, procedure, or service, or any particular course of treatment, procedure, or service.

NOTICE: Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage.

Medicare Advantage Members

Established 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-benehelp.aspx>.

When coverage criteria are not fully established in applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs or LCDs, internal coverage criteria may 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.

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