



InterQual Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry Criteria

Drive appropriate admissions to help increase capacity and throughput

InterQual® Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry Criteria help move patients safely and efficiently through the continuum of care. The depth of the criteria helps care managers consider the patient's symptoms, comorbidities, treatment history and functional status, as well as their social determinants of health (SDOH) risk factors, support system, living environment, potential interventions and the quality of the patient's participation when determining the most appropriate level of care. These criteria are developed using the same evidence-based rigor and peer review standards we apply to our medical and surgical criteria.

Continuum format – Presents all settings of care and conditions in one holistic view. The episode day/week feature provides day-by-day or week-by-week timeline guidance, helping care managers ensure that the patient's response to treatment is progressing as expected.

Setting recommendations – The criteria indicate the next safe setting of care by recommending lower levels of care when the patient is improving and more intense settings when the patient's condition is worsening. This facilitates timely movement up and down the care continuum, increasing patient throughput and enabling a provider organization to fully utilize all levels of care within its ecosystem.

Holistic view of the patient – This single view allows for simultaneous consideration of multiple symptoms/behaviors, co-occurring medical issues, SDOH and support system factors, functional impairment and treatment history, both on admission and continued stay. The holistic view aligns with each level or setting of care, providing a comprehensive patient story to aid decision-making.

Comprehensive care settings – Includes the full range of adult psychiatry levels of care spanning 11 settings, enabling appropriate patient movement across the continuum. A level of care quick-reference guide helps care managers quickly compare one level of care to the other. Includes information on levels of care appropriate for telehealth services.

Medicare policy alignment – Medicare policy notes (including application of the Two-Midnight rule) and a direct link to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapters 2, 6, and 7 provide additional information for the reviewer within the medical review workflow.

Utilization benchmarks – Includes our proprietary InterQual length of stay benchmarks, which are based on claims data from millions of patient discharges. Benchmarks provide insights into actual clinical experience and can support clinicians and other hospital and health plan professionals with understanding normal ranges for current practice.

Care management information notes – Provide guidance for expected progress, care facilitation, and admission considerations to support conversations between care managers and the care team.

Transition planning tool – Includes a checklist of tasks which takes into consideration SDOH to support a safe transition of care and reduce the risk of readmission.

Levels of care

Levels of care covered for the review of patients age 18 and older include:

- Inpatient
- Behavioral Health Observation
- Residential Crisis Program
- Residential Treatment Center
- Supervised Living
- Partial Hospital Program
- Day Treatment Program
- Home Care
- Intensive Community-Based Treatment
- Intensive Outpatient Program
- Outpatient

Clinical decision support across the continuum of care

InterQual criteria and industry content

Level of Care	Behavioral Health	Ambulatory Care Planning	Industry Content	Care Coordination
Acute Adult*	Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry	Procedures*	The ASAM Criteria®	Coordinated Care
Acute Pediatric*	Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Imaging	Concert Genetics	Patient Education
Long-Term Acute Care*	Substance Use Disorders	Durable Medical Equipment*	Medicare Behavioral Health	
Inpatient Rehabilitation*	Behavioral Health Services	Molecular Diagnostics	Medicare Procedures*	
Subacute and Skilled Nursing*		Specialty Rx Non-Oncology	Medicare Imaging	
Home Care		Specialty Rx Oncology	Medicare Post-Acute and Durable Medical Equipment	
Outpatient Rehab and Chiropractic		Specialty Referral	Medicare Molecular Diagnostics and Lab	
		Retrospective Monitoring	Medicare Pharmacy	

* Decision Reasons add-on available.

Objective, specific and comprehensive clinical content

InterQual criteria are objective and specific, helping guide consistent, defensible decisions that ensure appropriate, quality care. The portfolio of 5 content suites offers comprehensive content that spans the continuum of care for medical and behavioral health.

Rigorous, evidence-based development process

Our highly trained clinical development team performs an unbiased, systematic review and critical appraisal of the evidence using elements of the GRADE approach to help ensure InterQual criteria reflect the best available clinical evidence. No other criteria provide a higher level of accuracy and timeliness than InterQual. Developed with rigor and objectivity, InterQual criteria are updated frequently to remain current with the latest evidence.

Extensive peer review

Our clinical review panel of more than 1,100 independent, multidisciplinary experts provides extensive, multilevel peer review. For situations that do not lend themselves to accepted research methods, larger and more geographically dispersed groups of clinical experts are used to establish best practices that reflect the current standard of care.

InterQual is used by:

4,300+

provider organizations

300+

payer organizations

100%

RACs, MACs, CMS and
BFCC-QIOs

The ASAM Criteria is a registered trademark of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.



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