



InterQual Behavioral Health Services Criteria

Drive appropriate utilization to streamline authorizations

InterQual® Behavioral Health Services Criteria helps improve quality and streamline reimbursement. This standardized, automated criteria set supports documentation of the medical appropriateness of behavioral health interventions and level of care and helps providers secure prior authorization. Criteria are developed using the same evidence-based rigor and peer review standards we apply to our medical criteria and reflect the latest evidence-based medicine.

Behavioral health expertise – The criteria incorporate the expertise of a multidisciplinary panel of mental health specialists that includes more than 150 psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists, pharmacists, applied behavioral analysts and other related specialists.

Q&A format – This easy-to-use format is organized by service and relevant age populations. Care managers can quickly evaluate the severity of symptoms, consider conservative treatment options, and rule out any contraindications. The algorithm accommodates clinical presentation complexity and numerous service indications to derive a patient-specific recommendation.

Urine drug testing (UDT) benchmarks – Proprietary InterQual UDT benchmarks, based on claims data from over 1 million claims, helps to provide insight into actual clinical experience and can support clinicians and other hospital and health plan professionals with understanding normal ranges for presumptive and definitive urine drug testing by diagnosis.

Setting of care guidance – Determines an appropriate setting (inpatient or outpatient) for a surgery or procedure at the CPT code level based on a proprietary InterQual benchmark and CMS guidance.

Aggregated services coverage – Interventions across the InterQual portfolio that are relevant to behavioral health patients are consolidated. Criteria address the varied services for pediatric, adolescent, adult and geriatric use including procedures, interventions, testing and pharmaceutical treatment. Includes all indications for each service (e.g., 17 indications for TMS).

Specialty service inclusion – Applied Behavior Analysis Program criteria address the needs of autism spectrum disorder in children, adolescents and adults. Adolescent and adult criteria provide needed support in states that mandate coverage for these age groups.

Procedures, intervention and level of care:

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program
- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
- Outdoor Behavioral Health (OBH) Residential Wilderness Program
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- Stereotactic Introduction, Subcortical or Cortical Electrodes
- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS)

Testing:

- Multi-Gene Panels for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Neuropsychological and Developmental Testing
- Pharmacogenomic Testing for Psychotropic Medication Drug Response
- Psychological Testing
- Urine Drug Testing (UDT)

Pharmaceuticals:






- Aducanumab-avwa (Aduhelm®)
- Brexanolone (ZULRESSO®)
- Esketamine (SPRAVATO®)
- Paliperidone Palmitate (INVEGA HAFYERA™, INVEGA SUSTENNA® and INVEGA TRINZA®)

Also available:

Medicare Behavioral Health Navigator – Content fully aligned with Medicare and Medicare Advantage NCD/LCDs and policy articles within your InterQual workflow.

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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