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InterQual Procedures Criteria

Drive appropriate utilization of surgical and invasive procedures

Inappropriate surgical and invasive procedures are all too prevalent in the United States. To help make informed decisions regarding the appropriateness of procedures, payers and providers need evidence-based clinical tools.

InterQual® Procedures Criteria is backed by the best clinical evidence available to help improve quality, reduce costs, and support documentation of the medical appropriateness of invasive and surgical interventions.

Q&A format – Allows for an intuitive end-user experience and enables easier training.

Comprehensive criteria – Covers more than 500 high-cost or high-volume surgical or invasive procedures.

Streamlined review process – Identifies urgent conditions and indications to alert the user that prior authorization is not required and that a review can be done retrospectively.

Screening for conservative treatments – Helps ensure that appropriate, less invasive interventions have been tried and have been proven unsuccessful prior to a surgical procedure.

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.

Length of stay (LOS) benchmarks – Provides benchmark targets based upon both CMS geometric mean length of stay (GMLOS) data and proprietary InterQual length of stay data. The benchmarks provide guidance to facilitate efficient management of the patient to a target LOS.

Limited evidence recommendations – Identifies procedures that require secondary medical review. These recommendations prompt users to collect patient-specific clinical information to help a physician reviewer reach a determination.

Decision Reasons* – Provides organizations a library of consumer-level content used to explain why a service may not be clinically appropriate for a patient. This content is aligned with InterQual criteria and supports consistency and transparency while streamlining the patient-provider-payer communication process.

* Available as a content add-on

Categories

Age-related

- Adolescent
- Adult
- Pediatric

Medical specialty

- Behavioral health
- Cardiology
- Cardiothoracic
- General surgery
- Hand, plastic, and reconstructive
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Oromaxillofacial, dental and otolaryngology
- Orthopedic – lower extremity
- Orthopedic – upper extremity
- Podiatry
- Specialized procedures
- Urology
- Vascular

Also available:

Medicare Procedures Navigator – For the review of procedures for Medicare/ Medicare Advantage patients to help ensure compliance with CMS policies (NCDs and LCDs).

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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