

September 2018

MCG criteria to determine medical necessity

Summary: Effective November 5, 2018, Healthy Blue will no longer use McKesson InterQual guidelines. Starting November 5, 2018, Healthy Blue will use the 22nd edition of MCG Care Guidelines (formerly *Milliman Care Guidelines*) to determine medical necessity of physical and behavioral health inpatient services.

Healthy Blue will use MCG Care Guidelines to guide utilization management decisions. This may include but is not limited to decisions involving precertification, inpatient review, level of care, discharge planning and retrospective review. MCG Care Guidelines include:

- Inpatient and surgical care (ISC).
- General recovery care (GRG).
- Recovery facility care (RFC).
- Chronic care (CC).
- Behavioral health care (BHG).

Why is this change necessary?

After thorough review and analysis, Healthy Blue decided to use the nationally recognized, peer-reviewed and evidence-based MCG criteria when reviewing medical necessity for inpatient services. These guidelines represent a compilation of best practices drawn from current medical evidence.

Evidence-based care guidelines from MCG help providers and health plans drive informed care. Informed care leads to the best patient outcomes.

What is the impact of this change?

Healthy Blue is moving to new standardized, widely adopted medical review criteria. These guidelines will be used when making medical necessity and level of care determinations that help providers render quality care while reducing underuse, overuse and misuse of medical resources.

Existing precertification requirements will not change.

For a free copy of the criteria, guidelines, or any other information we used to make a decision, call Healthy Blue Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, please contact Healthy Blue Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**, your Provider Relations representative, or the internal Provider Relations line at **1-504-836-8888** or email at lainterpr@healthybluela.com.

<https://providers.healthybluela.com>

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