Clinical Criteria

Hierarchy & Guidelines • Advanced Medical Doctors of California (AMDC)

PURPOSE

Our Utilization Management (UM) review process uses criteria compliant with Medicare and applicable Medicaid requirements to support determinations of benefit coverage, behavioral health needs, and medical appropriateness.

The criteria are reviewed and approved annually by the UM Committee.

Clinical Criteria Hierarchy

When making clinical determinations, the following hierarchy is applied in accordance with applicable federal and state guidance.

1

CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)

National Medicare coverage requirements issued by CMS.

Open NCD guidance

2

Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)

Coverage determinations issued by Medicare Administrative Contractors for defined jurisdictions.

Open LCD guidance

3

Local Coverage Articles (LCAs)

Supporting billing, coding, and coverage articles in the Medicare Coverage Database.

Search Medicare coverage articles

4

CMS Internet-Only Manuals

CMS program manuals and operational guidance.

Open CMS manuals

5

Medicare Drug Compendia & Benefit Policy Manual

Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Section 50.4 and related subsections, including anti-cancer chemotherapy regimen drugs (50.4.5), immunosuppressive drugs (50.5.1), Part B drug step therapy, and organization-specific device preferred-product guidelines when applicable.

Open Chapter 15 (PDF)

6

DHCS Medi-Cal Guidelines

Applicable California Medi-Cal publications and guidance.

Open Medi-Cal publications

Health Plan Clinical Policies

Apply the applicable health plan's published clinical policies and practice guidelines.

Health Plan	Policy Resource
Alignment Health Plan	Medicare guidelines
Central Health Plan / Molina Healthcare	Clinical policies
Health Net	Medical policies and clinical practice guidelines
Wellcare Health Plan	Clinical guidelines

Milliman Care Guidelines (MCG)

Use the appropriate plan-specific MCG access portal when applicable.

Alignment Health Plan: Open Alignment MCG

Central Health Plan / Molina Healthcare: Open Molina MCG

Criteria Requests

Need a specific MCG criterion?

Contact the UM Department at 626-943-7465 or umcriteria@sandsmanagement.com