

InterQual® Behavioral Health Services Criteria

Drive Appropriate Utilization to Streamline Authorizations and Reduce Denials

InterQual® Behavioral Health Services Criteria help improve quality and streamline reimbursement. This standardized, automated criteria set supports documentation of the medical appropriateness of behavioral health interventions 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 145 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.

Quantitative Recommendations—In relevant cases, the solution provides objective, evidence-based recommendations around service units (e.g., hours of testing, visits).

Care Setting Guidance—Within a single workflow, the solution recommends whether a surgery or invasive procedure should be performed on an inpatient or outpatient basis based upon medical evidence and the patient's condition.

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 criteria address the needs of Autism Spectrum Disorder in children, adolescents, and adults. Adolescent and adult population criteria provide needed support in states that mandate coverage for these age groups.

Behavioral Health Services

For the review of services for all age groups. Includes:

Procedures and Interventions

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program
- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
- Outdoor Behavioral Health (OBH) Residential Wilderness Program
- 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

- Brexanolone (ZULRESSO®)
- Esketamine (SPRAVATO®)

Also Available:






Medicare Behavioral Health Powered by InterQual®

InterQual provides comprehensive content fully aligned with Medicare and Medicare Advantage NCD/LCDs and policy articles within your InterQual workflow to help you ensure compliance.



Clinical Decision Support Across the Continuum of Care

InterQual® Criteria

 Level of Care	 Behavioral Health	 Ambulatory Care Planning	 Powered by InterQual	 Care Coordination
Acute Adult	Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry	Procedures	Medicare Procedures	Coordinated Care
Acute Pediatric	Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Imaging	Medicare Imaging	
Long-Term Acute Care	Substance Use Disorders	Durable Medical Equipment	Medicare Durable Medical Equipment	
Inpatient Rehabilitation	Behavioral Health Services	Molecular Diagnostics	Medicare Molecular Diagnostics and Lab	
Subacute and Skilled Nursing		Specialty Rx Oncology	Medicare Pharmacy	
Home Care		Specialty Rx Non-Oncology	Medicare Behavioral Health	
Outpatient Rehab and Chiropractic		Specialty Referral	Proprietary Third-Party Content	
		Retrospective Monitoring		

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 five 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 is updated frequently to remain current with the latest evidence.

Extensive Peer Review

Our clinical review panel of more than 1,000 independent, multidisciplinary experts provides extensive, multi-level 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 which reflect the current standard of care.

InterQual is Licensed by:



4,400+ Hospitals and Facilities*



280+ Managed Care Organizations*



100% RACs, MACs, CMS



Both BFCC-QIOs Conducting Two-Midnight Reviews

* Change Healthcare Internal Statistics