UM Criteria and Clinical Practice Guidelines

Accountable Health Care, IPA (AHC) utilizes clinical practice guidelines as standards of health care applicable to members and providers. The AHC Quality Management Committee performs a review of nationally and locally developed guidelines and gives final approval of the adoption of all guidelines.

All clinical practice guidelines are based on scientific evidence, review of the medical literature, or appropriately established authority, as cited. All recommendations are based on published consensus guidelines and do not favor any particular treatment based solely on cost consideration.

The recommendations for care are suggested as guides for making Medical Necessity clinical decisions. Clinicians and their patients must work together to develop individual treatment plans that are tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of each patient.

Providers and members have the right to request a copy of a guideline that AHC has used to make a treatment authorization decision.

AHC utilizes a variety of sources in developing our UM guidelines which include:

- Medicare and Medi-Cal’s Coverage Policy Statements
- National Guideline Clearinghouse
- Evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature
- Technology assessments and structured evidence reviews
- Evidence-based consensus statements
- Expert opinions of healthcare providers
- Evidence-based guidelines from nationally recognized professional healthcare organizations and public health agencies.
  - Apollo Guidelines
  - Inter-Qual

**Definition:**
Medical Necessity includes all health care services necessary for the diagnosis and/or treatment of a medical condition causing significant pain, negative impact on the health status of the Member, potential disability or is potentially life threatening.