

2017 InterQual[®] guidelines

Below is a summary of some of the changes included in the 2017 InterQual Level of Care Criteria release.

Acute Level of Care updates

For 2017, there are new subsets for both the adult and pediatric criteria:

- **Adult criteria.** The new subsets are Stroke, TIA, Hypertension, and Electrolyte or Mineral Imbalance.
- **Pediatric criteria.** The new subsets are BRUE (brief resolved unexplained event – previously ALTE), Hypertension, and Electrolyte or Mineral Imbalance.

The 2017 criteria have expanded enhancements regarding care management notes and benchmark length of stay guidelines. In addition, include the CMS Geometric Mean Length of Stay calculations in all subsets.

In the acute criteria, there is new Initial Review Criteria. This Initial Review Criteria are used only before the decision to admit has been made when the member is in the emergency room/department (ER). The Initial Review Criteria provides real-time decision support in the ER to determine if observation or an inpatient stay is more appropriate. The Initial Review Criteria are not a substitute for Episode Day 1 criteria.

In the General Medical subset (Adult/Pedi), the user will find redirection links to condition-specific criteria where applicable. This feature helps to guide the reviewer to correct specific criteria.

Post-Acute Level of Care updates

For the Post-Acute Level of Care criteria, the significant changes are noted in the SAC/SNF criteria. In the SAC/SNF criteria, the Medicare Subset is new for 2017. This subset is for screening and review of patients covered under Medicare or Medicare Advantage who require services in a skilled facility for short-term care (up to 100 days). Other enhancements for the SAC/SNF criteria include a body system format for the Intensity of Service criteria for an admission review and new responder components (Responder, Partial responder) when completing continued stay reviews.

The remainder of the post-acute criteria had revisions as needed throughout.

We encourage you to carefully review the new criteria so as not to overlook any of the enhancements.