

2021 InterQual® guidelines

Below is a summary of some of the changes included in the 2021 InterQual Level of Care Criteria release. Independence Blue Cross will apply these changes on August 14, 2021.

Acute adult level of care updates

- Three new subsets were created from the Anemia/Bleeding subset: Gastrointestinal (GI) Bleeding, Non-Traumatic Bleeding, Anemia
- Subset name changes include: Infection: Pyelonephritis to Infection Pyelonephritis or Complex UTI and Sickle Cell Crisis to Sickle Cell Disease.
- Global changes included an adjustment in length of stay for numerous subsets. Alterations in the duration of many subsets were made based on geometric mean length of stay guidelines.
- In several subsets, standards of care have been removed from the criteria and are now addressed in the accompanying note, when appropriate.

Acute pediatric level of care updates

- Global changes included an adjustment in length of stay for numerous subsets. Alterations in the duration of many subsets were made based on geometric mean length of stay guidelines.
- Subset name change: Sickle Cell Crisis to Sickle Cell Disease.
- The Nursey subset has undergone a significant update, reflecting a thorough review of the available literature, and has gone through a rigorous evaluation by a large panel of neonatologists.
- In several subsets, standards of care have been removed from the criteria and are now addressed in the accompanying note, when appropriate.

Post-Acute Level of Care updates

- Long-Term Acute Care: No significant criteria revisions noted.
- Acute Rehabilitation: No significant criteria revisions noted.
- Home Care updates: Added information regarding homebound status.
- Outpatient Rehab and Chiropractic criteria: Added enhanced information in the notes regarding Telehealth guidance.

Procedures criteria

- New Orthopedic subsets: Arthroscopy, Diagnostic, +/-Synovial Biopsy, Elbow and Removal or Revision, Arthroplasty, Elbow.

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