



2023 InterQual® guidelines

Below is a summary of the changes included in the 2023 InterQual Criteria release that Independence Blue Cross and Independence Administrators will begin using on **January 29, 2024**.

Acute Adult Level of Care updates

- The six Hematology/Oncology subsets have been condensed into two new subsets.
 - Hematology/Oncology: Complications or Disease Progression — addresses complications of outpatient treatment or progression of disease.
 - Hematology/Oncology: Treatments — includes criteria for patients who require admission for workup and/or treatment.
- Asthma subset updated to include most recent GINA guidelines.
- General Medical Subset
 - Removed Seizure from the General Section to the Neurologic section.

Acute Pediatric Level of Care updates

- Asthma subset updated to include most recent GINA guidelines.
- General Medical Subset
 - Removed Seizure from the General Section to the Neurologic section.
- Hyperbilirubinemia subset — The changes reflect the 2022 American Academy of Pediatrics' Clinical Practice Guideline Revision: Management of Hyperbilirubinemia in the Newborn Infant 35 or More Weeks of Gestation.
- Nurse-y subset
 - To align with current standards of care, "Mechanical ventilation" was added to Neonatal Intensive Care Level III.
 - NICU III and NICU IV were updated to include IV medication and hemodynamic monitoring.

Post-Acute Level of Care updates

- Long-Term Acute Care: No significant updates.
- Acute Rehabilitation: Criteria to align with the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual and Prospective Payment system for Fiscal Year 2024.
- Home Care Updates:
 - Streamlined reviews for therapies and updated time periods for initial and ongoing review.
 - Updated specific notes identified by CMS have been added to applicable criteria points to aid in the review of Medicare beneficiary or a non-Medicare beneficiary that follows Medicare guidance.
- Outpatient Rehabilitation Criteria: No significant updates.

Inpatient Procedures criteria

- Spinal procedures — removed the laterality of symptoms (unilateral or bilateral) in the decompression subsets.

- Hysterectomy subsets — Added pregnancy must be ruled out by HCG, history of sterilization, or postmenopausal state.
- Updates noted to the criteria for: Decompression +/- Fusion Lumbar related to PT, home exercise and activity. Revised criteria for Hysterectomy +/- Bilateral Salpingo-Oophorectomy or Bilateral Salpingectomy, Radical Hysterectomy, Salpingo-Oophorectomy, Bilateral or Oophorectomy, Bilateral, and Salpingo-Oophorectomy, Bilateral or Oophorectomy, Unilateral.

Imaging Updates (*Independence Administrators only*)

- New subset — Imaging Musculoskeletal Pelvis
- Renamed Imaging Fact to Imaging Face or Ear of Orbit or Sinonasal.
- Updates that impact review outcomes/workflow/or significant restructure for the following imaging criteria: Imaging abdomen and pelvis, Imaging brain, Imaging Spine-cervical, Imaging pituitary, Positron Emission Tomography (PET)-whole body.

Behavioral Health Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry Criteria Updates

- Global changes for all levels of care
 - Updated notes and citations in all levels of care for multiple diagnoses, including anxiety, bipolar, depressive, and disruptive or impulse control disorders.
 - Updated terminology such as “Sexually inappropriate” and “Inappropriate sexual behavior” to “Problematic sexual behavior.”

Behavioral Health Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Criteria Updates

- Global changes for all levels of care
 - Updated notes and citations in all levels of care for multiple diagnoses, including anxiety, bipolar, depressive, and disruptive or impulse control disorders.
 - Updated terminology such as “Sexually inappropriate” and “Inappropriate sexual behavior” to “Problematic sexual behavior.”

ASAM Criteria® Powered by InterQual® — The ASAM Criteria Navigator Updates

- Will include the ASAM 4th Edition changes such as:
 - Includes many person-centered enhancements. Assessment and treatment planning standards updated.
 - Includes integration of Recovery Support Services. Incorporated social determinants of health and trauma-sensitive and culturally Humble Care.
 - Readiness to change is now considered within each dimension instead of being its own dimension.
 - A new Dimension 6: Person-Centered Considerations looks at barriers to care, patient preferences, and need for motivational enhancement.
- The ASAM 3rd edition subset names have been changed to include 3rd edition at the beginning of the subset name. This was done to differentiate between ASAM 3rd and 4th editions.

We encourage you to carefully review the new criteria and make note of the enhancements.