

## 2025 InterQual® guidelines

Below is a summary of changes included in the 2025 InterQual Criteria that Independence Blue Cross and Independence Administrators will begin using on **August 18, 2025**.

### Acute Adult Level of Care updates

- A global change that impacts several subsets: The endpoint was removed from the criteria line “Oxygen  $\geq$  40%” to clarify the intent and ensure that patients who acutely require and continue to need 40% or more oxygen supplementation are accurately captured, reflecting the need for Intermediate level care.
- Bowel Obstruction subset: The number of episode days in this subset was changed from 4 to 5 days based on the geometric mean length of stay (GMLOS) benchmark data.
- General Surgical: On Post-op Day 1 at the Acute level of care, “Short stay within the last 2d” criteria point was added to capture the patient who had a designated inpatient procedure and is expected to have a length of stay of up to 2 days.
- Hyperosmolar Hyperglycemic State: The name of this subset was changed to Hyperglycemic Hyperosmolar State (HHS) from Hyperosmolar Hyperglycemic State to align with current guidelines.
- Pancreatitis: The number of episode days in this subset was changed from 4 to 5 days based on the GMLOS benchmark data.

### Acute Pediatric Level of Care updates

- Global revisions that impact several subsets: With regard to the hemodynamic instability criteria, “ED treatment” was changed to “Initial treatment” to clarify the intent of the criteria, ensuring that both Emergency Department (ED) patients and those hospitalized for other conditions who develop a new condition with hemodynamic instability can be reviewed.
- General Medical: In the Cardiovascular section, Kawasaki disease content was restructured significantly to streamline the review process and enhance usability.
- General Medical: In the Gastrointestinal or Biliary section at the Acute level of care on all Episode Days, the chronic pancreatitis criteria were removed as patients with this condition can now be reviewed in the Pancreatitis subset.
- Infection: Cellulitis subset. Changes to the criteria were made to streamline the review process and clarify the intent, and the number of episode days in this subset was changed from 3 to 4 days based on the GMLOS benchmark data.
- Infection: The Endocarditis subset has undergone significant updates and restructuring. The number of episode days in this subset was changed from 22 to 15 days.
- Infection: In the GI/GYN subset, acute appendicitis was added as a new condition.
- Nursery: Clarification update was made to this subset pertaining to prenatal opioid exposure criterion. This criteria line was updated to clarify the intent, capture newborns with drug withdrawal after opioid exposure, and ensure the symptoms being adequately managed by the Eat, Sleep, Console method of treatment.
- Pancreatitis: Updates were made to the criteria at all levels of care to better describe patients who require the Acute, Intermediate, or Critical level of care. Chronic pancreatitis criteria were moved from the General Medical subset to this subset to streamline the review process and for improved organization.

## **Post-Acute Level of Care updates**

- Long-Term Acute Care
  - No changes to the criteria
- Acute Rehabilitation
  - No changes to the Adult criteria
  - Updated Pediatric criteria in Severity of Illness to clarify the content to provide more suitable options for patients who may be clinically stable.
- Home Care
  - No changes to the criteria

## **Procedures criteria**

- Global updates related to the procedures criteria that impact the Acute Adult and Pediatric content: The setting determinations were removed from the recommendation level and moved to the review level.
- No changes to the procedures in the Obstetrics & Gynecology category.
- New subsets for 2025:
  - Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulator (HNS) Implantation
  - Orthognathic Surgery
  - Orthognathic Surgery (Pediatric)
  - Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Fusion
  - Transplantation, Lung

## **Imaging updates**

- Added criteria to allow for documentation when X-ray was not performed (but is required prior to advanced imaging) in the following subsets:
  - Imaging, Ankle
  - Imaging, Elbow
  - Imaging, Hip
  - Imaging, Knee
  - Imaging, Wrist

## **Behavioral Health Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry Criteria updates**

- Inpatient criteria for Episode Day 2-13 and Episode Day 14-X Extended subsets. “Daily” was removed from criteria points that discussed frequency of treatment planning or review. This update was made because evidence suggests that the frequency of treatment plan review should be based on clinical factors.

## **Behavioral Health Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Criteria updates**

- Inpatient criteria for Episode Day 2-13 and Episode Day 14-X Extended subsets. “Daily” was removed from criteria points that discussed frequency of treatment planning or review. This update was made because evidence suggests that the frequency of treatment plan review should be based on clinical factors.

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