

Medicare Criteria Hierarchy:

1. [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual](#)
2. [Medicare Managed Care Manual](#)
3. Health Plan EOC
 - a. [Aetna](#)
 - b. [Alignment](#)
 - c. [Anthem](#)
 - d. [Brand New Day](#)
 - e. [Central Valley Health Plan](#)
 - f. [Health Net](#)
 - g. [UnitedHealthcare](#)
2. [Medicare](#)
 - a. National Coverage Determination (NCD)
 - b. Local Coverage Determination (LCD)
 - c. Local Coverage Article (LCA)
3. [Medicare Benefit Policy](#)
4. Health Plan Criteria
 - a. [Aetna](#)
 - b. [Alignment \(Medical Policies\)](#)
 - c. [Anthem Blue Cross](#)
 - d. [Brand New Day](#)
 - e. [Central Valley Health Plan/Humana](#)
 - f. [Health Net](#)
 - g. [UnitedHealthcare](#)
5. [InterQual, Adult & Pediatric](#) (not used for Aetna or Central Valley Health Plan/Humana)
6. [Carelton Medical Benefits Management clinical appropriateness guidelines](#)
 - a. Diagnostic Imaging
 - b. Sleep Disorders
7. [National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines](#)
8. Sante UM Policies and Procedures (see next pages)

This Clinical Policy Bulletin (CPB) supplements but does not replace, modify, or supersede existing Medicare Regulations or applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) or Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs). The supplemental medical necessity criteria in this CPB further define those indications for services that are proven safe and effective where those indications are not fully established in applicable NCDs and LCDs. These supplemental medical necessity criteria are based upon evidence-based guidelines and clinical studies in the peer-reviewed published medical literature. The background section of this CPB includes an explanation of the rationale that supports adoption of the medical necessity criteria and a summary of evidence that was considered during the development of the CPB; the reference section includes a list of the sources of such evidence. While there is a possible risk of reduced

or delayed care with any coverage criteria, Sante Physicians believes that the benefits of these criteria – ensuring patients receive services that are appropriate, safe, and effective – substantially outweigh any clinical harms.