

Medical Necessity (Level of Care) Criteria

On a Member's initial visit to you, you will evaluate the Member and determine what behavioral health services you believe the Member needs. However, before you provide these services, you must make sure the services meet Medical Necessity (level of care) Criteria in the applicable guideline.

UPMC Health Plan Behavioral Health Services' Care Management Department uses these criteria in determining whether to issue an authorization (preapproval, precertification) for service.

If the patient's clinical condition necessitates a level of care that is covered in the patient's benefit plan but that level of care is not available, the next highest covered benefit level of care will be authorized.

The **Mental Health Medical Necessity Criteria** utilized by UPMC Health Plan Behavioral Health Services may be obtained as follows:

The Mihalik Group's Medical Necessity Manual for Behavioral Health:
www.themihalikgroup.com

If you do not remember your password, please call The Mihalik Group at 773-929-1722.

The **Chemical Dependency Medical Necessity Criteria** utilized by UPMC Health Plan Behavioral Health Services may be obtained as follows:

Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria, 2nd ed. (utilized for adults):
Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs,
Room 929, Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM), Patient Placement Criteria (PPC-2R)
(utilized for children and adolescents):
ASAM Publications Distribution Center, P.O. Box 101, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0101, 1-800-844-8948, www.asam.org.

You may also contact us to obtain a copy of the Medical Necessity Criteria by calling 1-888-251-2224.
