



Change in CareCentrix's Medical Necessity Review Criteria for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) and Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Authorization Requests

Effective Date: 05/01/2026

This serves as formal notification to providers of an update to the medical necessity review criteria applied to certain post-acute care authorization requests reviewed by our delegated vendor, CareCentrix.

Criteria Update

Effective 05/01/2026, authorization requests for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) and Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services will be reviewed by CareCentrix using Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) criteria. This update replaces the use of InterQual® guidelines for these two service categories.

Rationale

CareCentrix's adoption of CMS criteria for IRF and SNF services supports alignment with Medicare coverage requirements and promotes consistent application of medical necessity standards across post-acute care services.

Scope of Change

- Applies only to IRF and SNF authorization reviews.
- Does not impact authorization submission processes or timelines.
- Does not alter documentation requirements beyond those necessary to support CMS medical necessity criteria.
- InterQual® guidelines will be used for all other applicable service types, as appropriate.

Effective Implementation

Requests for IRF and SNF services received on or after the effective date will be subject to review under CMS criteria by CareCentrix, and providers should submit clinical documentation that supports medical necessity consistent with CMS coverage requirements. Submissions prior to the effective date will be reviewed according to the criteria in effect at the time of submission, unless otherwise required by regulation or policy.

Questions

If you have questions regarding this change or require additional clarification, please contact [Provider Services / Utilization Management Contact Information].

This notice does not replace applicable plan documents or member benefit materials. In the event of a conflict, applicable laws, regulations, and plan documents shall govern.