



MEDICAL NECESSITY DETERMINATION

Highmark Health Options will provide covered services consistent with medical necessity defined as the essential need for health care or services which, when delivered by or through authorized and qualified providers, will:

- Be directly related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a member's disease, condition, and/or disorder that results in health impairments and/or disability (the physical or mental functional deficits that characterize the member's condition) and be provided to the member only.
- Be appropriate and effective to the comprehensive profile (e.g., needs, aptitudes, abilities, and environment) of the member and the member's family.
- Be primarily directed to the diagnosed medical condition or the effects of the condition of the member, in all settings for normal activities of daily living (ADLs).
- Be timely, considering the nature and current state of the member's diagnosed condition and its effects, and will be expected to achieve the intended outcomes in a reasonable time.
- Be the least costly, appropriate, available health service alternative, and will represent an effective and appropriate use of program funds.
- Be the most appropriate care or service that can be safely and effectively provided to the member and will not duplicate other services provided to the member.
- Be sufficient in amount, scope, and duration to reasonably achieve its purpose.
- Be recognized as either the treatment of choice (i.e., prevailing community or statewide standard) or common medical practice by the practitioner's peer group, or the functional equivalent of other care and services that are commonly provided; and
- Be rendered in response to a life-threatening condition or pain, or to treat an injury, illness, or other diagnosed condition, or to treat the effects of a diagnosed condition that has resulted in or could result in a physical or mental limitation, including loss of physical or mental functionality or developmental delay.
- Include members enrolled in DSHP Plus (LTSS), and provide the opportunity for members to have access to the benefits of community living, to achieve person-centered goals, and live and work in the setting of their choice.