

## **Medical Necessity Determination**

Health Options will provide Covered Services consistent with the definition of Medical Necessity provided below.

### **Medical Necessity:**

The essential need for health care or services which, when delivered by or through authorized and qualified providers, will:

- Be directly related to the diagnosed medical condition or the effects of the condition of the member (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), but will not be solely for the convenience of the member, the member's family, or the member's provider;
- 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.

- And will be reasonably determined to:
  - Diagnose, cure, correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and diagnosed conditions or the effects of such conditions; or
  - Prevent the worsening of conditions or effects of conditions that endanger life or cause pain, or result in illness or infirmity, or have caused or threaten to cause a physical or mental dysfunction, impairment, disability, or developmental delay; or
  - Effectively reduce the level of direct medical supervision required or reduce the level of medical care or services received in an institutional setting or other Medicaid program; or
  - Restore or improve physical or mental functionality, including developmental functioning, lost or delayed as the result of an illness, injury, or other diagnosed condition or the effects of the illness, injury or condition; or
  - Provide assistance in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational and other services required to diagnose, treat, or support a diagnosed condition or the effects of the condition.
- In order that the member might attain or retain independence, self-care, dignity, self-determination, personal safety, and integration into all natural family, community and facility environments, and activities.