


SUBJECT: Clinical Practice Guidelines	
BUSINESS OWNER: Quality Improvement	Page 1 of 2
APPROVED BY: Accreditation Team  Joshua Plavin, MD (Dec 8, 2021 07:15 EST) <hr/> Joshua Plavin, MD, MPH, MBA Vice President and Chief Medical Officer	Approved by: Accreditation Team 11/15/2021
	Effective: 05/25/2006
	Revised: 10/27/2016, 11/2018, 12/2019, 11/2021
	Next Review Date: 11/2023
	Applies To: All Lines of Business
REGULATORY/ACCREDITATION LINKS: 2022 NCQA HP Standards: PHM 3A	
POLICY LINKS: PCP Selection Criteria Policy Quality of Care Risk Investigations Policy	

Policy:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont (Blue Cross) adopts and distributes clinical practice guidelines from nationally recognized authorities and/or evidence-based research, in an attempt to decrease variations in clinical practice that could adversely impact patient outcomes as a result of over, under, or inappropriate utilization of services.

These guidelines assist practitioners and members to make decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. Clinical practice guidelines may represent the standard of care upon which Blue Cross profiles network primary care practitioners,

obstetrician/gynecologists, and mental health and substance use disorder (MHSUD) practitioners each year. Blue Cross determines practitioner compliance and performance measurement with the adopted clinical practice guidelines through medical record reviews, targeted clinical studies, and provider performance analysis. Blue Cross uses Health Plan Employer Data Information Set (HEDIS) and other performance measurements in the review.

Clinical practice guidelines are also the scientific evidence used to inform present quality improvement projects. Blue Cross quality improvement staff update the guidelines at least every two years, and more frequently if needed, and gain approval for any changes from the Clinical Community Advisory Group (CCAG).

Blue Cross will provide written notification to practitioners that the information is available on the Blue Cross website, in the Provider Resource Center.

III. Biennial REVIEW

The Accreditation Team reviews and updates this policy biennially and as needed.