Utilization Management

One of the goals of Molina Healthcare's Utilization Management (UM) department is to render appropriate UM decisions that are consistent with objective clinical evidence. To achieve that goal, Molina Healthcare maintains the following guidelines:

- Medical information received by our providers is evaluated by our highly trained UM staff against nationally recognized objective and evidence-based criteria. We also take individual circumstances and the local delivery system into account when determining the medical appropriateness of requested health care services.

- Molina Healthcare's clinical criteria includes McKesson InterQual® criteria, Hayes Directory, Medicare National and Local Coverage Determinations, applicable Medicaid Guidelines, Molina Medical Coverage Guidance Documents (developed by designated Corporate Medical Affairs staff in conjunction with Molina Healthcare physicians serving on the Medical Coverage Guidance Committee) and when appropriate, third party (outside) board-certified physician reviewers.

- Molina Healthcare ensures that all criteria used for UM decision-making are available to practitioners upon request. To obtain a copy of the UM criteria used in the decision-making process, call our UM Department at **(844) 826-4335**.

- As the requesting practitioner, you will receive written notification of all UM denial decisions. The notification will include the name and telephone number of the Molina Healthcare physician that made the decision. Please feel free to call him or her to discuss the case. If you need assistance contacting a medical reviewer about a case, please call the UM Department at **(844) 826-4335**.

It is important to remember that:

1. UM decision-making is based only on appropriateness of care and service and existence of coverage.
2. Molina Healthcare does not reward practitioners or other individuals for issuing denials of coverage or care.
3. UM decision makers do not receive financial incentives or other types of compensation to encourage decisions that result in underutilization.
4. Practitioners may freely communicate with patients about their treatment, regardless of benefit coverage.

5. Medicaid members have the right to a second opinion from a qualified practitioner. If an appropriate practitioner is not available in-network, Molina Healthcare will arrange for a member to obtain the second opinion out of network at no additional cost to the member than if the services were obtained in-network.
6. Some of the most common reasons for a delay or denial of a request include:
    - Insufficient or missing clinical information to provide the basis for making the decision
    - Lack of or missing progress notes or illegible documentation
    - Request for an urgent review when there is no medical urgency

Molina Healthcare's UM Department staff is available for inbound collect or toll-free calls during regular business hours to provide information about the UM process and the authorization of care. If you wish to speak with a member of the UM staff, please call **(844) 826-4335**. The Medical Director is available for more complex medical decision questions and explanations of medical necessity denials. For information about pre-authorization and the exception process for medications, please refer to the *Preferred Drug List and Pharmaceutical Procedures* article.

Molina Healthcare's regular business hours are Monday – Friday (excluding holidays) 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST. Voicemail messages and faxes received after regular business hours will be returned the following business day. Molina Healthcare has language assistance and TDD/TTY services for members with language barriers or with hearing and/or speech problems.