



Medical Necessity

States have the ability to establish their own criteria for deciding if a service is medically necessary, as long as the definition is not more restrictive than what is written in federal law. States may define medical necessity in their Medicaid manuals, administrative code, or using other mechanisms. In situations where medical necessity determinations are required, they must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Use the resource (updated April 2021) below to complete the following table.

<https://www.nashp.org/medical-necessity/#:~:text=Medicaid%20provider%20manuals%20in%20the,or%20treat%20a%20medical%20condition.%E2%80%9D>

Your state definition of medical necessity:	
Where medical necessity is defined in your state (e.g., Medicaid manual, administrative code, code of regulations, etc.):	
Date the definition of medical necessity was last updated in your state:	
Is there a separate definition of medical necessity for children and youth under age 21 in your state?	<i>If yes, list the definition here.</i>

Reflection Question:

How does your state’s definition of medical necessity align with how you think of medical necessity? What surprised you about the definition?	
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