



Oscar Clinical Guidelines - Medical 2025 Q1 CAS Summary of Changes

Revisions/Off-Cycle Reviews

Clinical Guideline	Section	Revision	Substantive Change?	Effective Date
All Oscar Clinical Guidelines	All sections	1. Updated all Q1 guidelines with consistent formatting, section titles, groupings, and indicators such as 'ONE of the following,' 'ALL of the following,' and 'NONE of the following.'	No	09/01/2025
Skilled Nursing Facility Care (CG042)	Medical Necessity Criteria for Initial Clinical Review	1. Removed, "Please refer to the SNF contracts for reimbursement leveling based on the number of skilled hours, frequency of assessments, and clinical complexity. The appropriate level of care is subject to change as the member progresses or when acute changes in condition occur."	No	09/01/2025
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Subsequent Clinical Review	1. Added criteria to address extension requests for skilled nursing facility (SNF) care.	Yes	09/01/2025

New Guidelines

Clinical Guideline	Details	Effective Date
Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) for Bacterial Vaginosis, Bacterial	See the new Oscar Clinical Guideline on https://www.hioscar.com/clinical-guidelines	TBD

Vaginitis, Trichomoniasis, and Vulvovaginal Candidiasis (CG119)		
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Annual Reviews

Clinical Guideline	Section	Revision	Substantive Change?	Effective Date
Bariatric Surgery (Adults) (CG008)	Title	1. Added “and Revision of Bariatric Surgery” to the guideline title.	No	09/01/2025
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Clinical Review	1. Added select patients with type 2 diabetes and a body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 -34.9 to the medical necessity criteria. 2. Added abdominal wall hernia repair to the medical necessity criteria for patients with a BMI greater ≥ 35 . 3. Removed urinary stress incontinence from the medical necessity criteria for patients with a BMI greater ≥ 35 .	Yes	09/01/2025
		1. Added “with a planned surgery” to the knee or hip replacement criterion (2.b.vii). 2. Removed the section, “Members with a BMI 30-34.9,” as it is addressed in updated criteria. 3. Minor formatting changes.	No	09/01/2025
Bariatric Surgery (Adolescents: Ages 13-17) (CG009)	Title	1. Added “and Revision of Bariatric Surgery” to the guideline title.	No	09/01/2025
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Clinical Review	1. Restructured the section, “Members with Class I Obesity (BMI 30-34.9 or BMI $\geq 95\%$ to $<120\%$ of the 95th percentile for age)” from	Yes	09/01/2025

		paragraph form into a medical necessity criteria list.		
		1. Added the disclaimer, "Please refer to the member's plan documents for benefits." 2. Minor formatting changes.	No	09/01/2025
Medical Nutrition Therapy (Dietary Evaluation & Counseling) (CG010)	Summary	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025
	Definitions	1. Minor language changes.		
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Initial Clinical Review	1. Minor language changes.		
Acupuncture (CG013)	Definitions	1. Minor formatting changes.	No	09/01/2025
	Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary	1. Minor formatting changes.		
		1. Added the Balance Method as experimental, investigational, or unproven (EIU).	Yes	09/01/2025
		1. Updated the literature review related to the use of acupuncture for treatment of lateral elbow pain/tennis elbow.	No	09/01/2025
Diagnosis and Treatment of Infertility (CG016)	Summary	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025
	Definitions	1. Minor language changes.		
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Clinical Review	1. Minor language and formatting changes.		

		1. Added cystic fibrosis gene (CFTR) mutation testing in males with congenital bilateral absence of the vas deferens (CBAVD) to basic male infertility services.	Yes	09/01/2025
		1. Restructured the laboratory testing list under basic male infertility services. 2. Restructured the laboratory testing list under basic female infertility services.	No	09/01/2025
Home Care - Skilled Nursing Care (RN, LVN/LPN) (CG020)	Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025
Home Care - Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) (CG021)	Medical Necessity Criteria for Initial Clinical Review	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025
Home Care - Home Health Aides (HHA) (CG022)	Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025
Home Care - Speech Language Pathology (SLP) Services (CG023)	Definitions	1. Minor language changes. 2. Added "if applicable" to the definition of speech-language pathologist.	No	09/01/2025
	Medical Necessity	1. Minor language changes.		

	Criteria for Initial Clinical Review	2. Reformatted and added clarification language to the minimum required credentials to practice as a speech-language pathologist.		
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Subsequent Clinical Review	1. Minor language changes.		
Outpatient Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) (CG044)	Summary	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025
	Definitions	1. Minor formatting changes.		
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Initial Clinical Review	1. Added “congenital abnormality” to criterion #4 to align with existing definitions of rehabilitative and habilitative treatments.		
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Subsequent Clinical Review	1. Minor language changes.		
	Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary	1. Minor language changes.	Yes	09/01/2025
		1. Added PENS-field stimulation (PENFS), percutaneous peripheral nerve stimulation (PNS), and peripheral nerve field stimulation (PNfS) as experimental, investigational, or unproven (EIU).		
Intraoperative Neuromonitoring (CG045)	Definitions	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025
	Medical Necessity Criteria for Clinical Review	1. Updated criteria #2, #3, #5 to include PhD-level neurophysiologists, under the supervision of licensed physicians, as qualified	Yes	09/01/2025

		professionals for performing and interpreting intraoperative neuromonitoring.		
		1. Added "operating" to criterion #4 for clarity.	No	09/01/2025
		1. Added tethered cord release surgery to the medical necessity criteria for intraoperative sensory/somatosensory evoked potentials.	Yes	09/01/2025
	Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary	1. Minor language changes.	No	09/01/2025