

We're using updated utilization management criteria for behavioral health services starting Aug. 2, 2021

On Aug. 2, 2021, we'll begin using the 2021 InterQual[®] criteria to make utilization management determinations for behavioral health services.

This applies to determinations on behavioral health services for Medicare Plus Blue, BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members.

In addition, certain types of determinations will be based on modifications to InterQual criteria or on local rules or medical policies, as shown in the table below.

Product	Modified 2021 InterQual criteria for:	Local rules or medical policies for:
BCN commercial and BCN Advantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance use disorders: partial hospital program and intensive outpatient program • Mental health disorders: partial hospital program and intensive outpatient program • Residential mental health treatment (adult, geriatric, child and adolescent members) <p>Note: Neither BCN commercial members with BCN1, BCN5 and BCN10 plans nor BCN Advantage members have residential mental health treatment benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied behavior analysis for autism spectrum disorder — for BCN commercial members only • Neurofeedback for attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder • Transcranial magnetic stimulation, or TMS • Telemedicine (telepsychiatry and teletherapy)
Medicare Plus Blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance use disorders: partial hospital program and intensive outpatient program • Mental health disorders: partial hospital program and intensive outpatient program <p>Note: Only State of Michigan Medicare Plus Blue members have intensive outpatient program benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telemedicine (telepsychiatry and teletherapy) <p>Note: Medicare Plus Blue members don't have neurofeedback or TMS benefits.</p>

To find additional information on telemedicine, refer to the document [Blue Cross and BCN: Telehealth for behavioral health providers](#).

As a reminder, determinations on Blue Cross commercial behavioral health authorization requests are handled by New Directions, a Blue Cross vendor.

In early July, we'll have links to the updated versions of the modified criteria, local rules and medical policies on these pages on our ereferrals.bcbsm.com website:

- [Blue Cross Behavioral Health page](#)
- [BCN Behavioral Health page](#)
- [BCN Autism page](#)