



Clinical Medical Policy Emergency and Urgent Care

Benefit Coverage:

- Emergency and urgent care services are a covered benefit for RIte Care members.
- Emergency and urgent care services are not a covered benefit for members with RIte Care Extended Family Planning (EFP) benefits only.

Description:

Emergency services are inpatient and outpatient services that are necessary to evaluate or stabilize an emergency medical condition.

An **emergency medical condition** means a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in the following:

- Placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to bodily function; or
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part

An **emergency dental condition** is a dental condition requiring immediate treatment to control hemorrhage, relieve acute pain, or to eliminate acute infection, pulpal death, or loss of teeth.

An **urgent medical condition** is a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity that:

1. In a prudent layperson's judgment, the absence of medical attention within twenty-four (24) hours could reasonably be expected to result in
 - Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
 - Serious impairment to bodily function; or
 - Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part, or
2. In the opinion of a practitioner with knowledge of the member's medical condition, would subject the member to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the request

Triage is a medical screening examination, performed by an appropriately licensed health care professional to determine if a medical emergency exists. This examination includes an evaluation and assessment of the presenting problem(s) and general health status.

Stabilization – the attending emergency physician, or the provider actually treating the member, is responsible for determining when the Member is sufficiently stabilized for transfer or discharge.

Post-Stabilization Care Services are those services provided to a member following an admission for an urgent or emergency medical condition in order to ensure that the Member maintains a stabilized condition.



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Coverage Determination:

Emergency and urgent care services for RIte Care members are covered without prior authorization when:

- A practitioner in Neighborhood's network or other authorized representative referred the member for emergency or urgent care services.
- The member is temporarily located outside of Rhode Island and receives emergency or urgent care services
- A prudent layperson, acting reasonably, would have believed that an emergency medical condition existed.

RIte Care members are held harmless for emergency or urgent care services that are denied retrospectively and cannot be billed.

Criteria:

Covered services which require prior authorization and medical review, which are not rendered in an emergency room or urgent care center, but are requested as "emergent" or "urgent" services, will be evaluated based on the descriptions contained in this policy.

Covered Procedures:

N/A

Exclusions:

CMP Number: CMP-025.01

CMP Cross Reference:

References:

Contract between State of RI and Providence Plantations Department of Human Services and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, Inc, For the Provision of Health Plan Services.

Created: 9/07

Annual Review Month:

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