

## Application

<b>Application of this Medical Policy applies to:</b>
INTEGRITY for Duals (FIDE), Duals CONNECT (CO-DSNP)
<b>Application Excluded for:</b>
Commercial (HBE), RIte Care (MED), Children with Special Needs (CSN), Substitute Care (SUB), Rhody Health Partners (RHP), Rhody Health Expansion (RHE), Extended Family Planning (EFP)

## Medicare Distinction:

For INTEGRITY for Duals (FIDE) and Duals CONNECT (CO-DSNP) members: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) uses guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for coverage determinations, including medical necessity. Coverage determinations are based on applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), Local Coverage Articles (LCAs), and other Medicare guidelines.

For FIDE Members: In the absence of an applicable or incomplete NCD, LCD, or other Medicare guidelines OR if available Medicare coverage guidance is not met, then Neighborhood will apply coverage guidance from the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS), or other widely used treatment guidelines with peer-reviewed scientific evidence, such as InterQual® and/or internal Clinical Medical Policies as a means of secondary coverage through the member's Medicaid benefit.

For CO-DSNP Members: In the absence of an applicable or incomplete NCD, LCD, or other Medicare guidelines, then Neighborhood will apply coverage guidance from other widely used treatment guidelines with peer-reviewed scientific evidence, such as InterQual® and/or internal Clinical Medical Policies.

## Description

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) covers medically necessary medical procedures and durable medical equipment for INTEGRITY and CONNECT members. The purpose of this document is to describe the guidelines/criteria Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) utilizes when authorizing services for medical procedures and/or durable medical equipment for Integrity members.

**Definitions:**

1. **National Coverage Determinations (NCD):** Coverage determinations made by CMS that outline the extent to which specific services, procedures, or technologies are within the scope of a Medicare benefit category: being considered "reasonable and necessary" for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury, and which Medicare will cover on a national basis.

[Click here to review the NCDs index.](#)

2. **Local Coverage Determinations:** A Local Coverage Determination is a decision by a Medicare Administrative Contractor whether to cover a particular service on a MAC-wide, basis. Codes describing what is covered and what is not covered can be part of the LCD. This includes, for example, lists of CPTs or HCPCs codes that spell out which services the LCD applies to, lists of ICD-10-CM codes for which the service is covered and even lists of ICD-10-CM codes for which the service is not considered reasonable and necessary.

[Click here to review the LCDs index](#)

3. **Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC):** a network of private organizations contracted with CMS that carry out the administrative responsibilities of traditional Medicare (Parts A and B). The network is awarded a geographic jurisdiction to provide administrative functions for Medicare Part A and Part B beneficiaries. MACs are multi-state, regional contractors.

Rhode Island's current MACs are:

- National Government Services (NGS) for A/B services:  
<https://www.ngsmedicare.com>
- Noridian Healthcare Solutions for durable medical equipment:  
<https://med.noridianmedicare.com>
- Rhode Island is part of Jurisdiction K for A/B services and Jurisdiction A for durable medical equipment.

**Coverage Determination**

Neighborhood covers medically necessary medical procedures and durable medical equipment. When coverage determination/criteria for services requested are not specifically outlined in an applicable, NCD, LCD, other CMS published guidance, or a Neighborhood Clinical Medical Policy

specific to the services requested; Neighborhood utilizes Change Health Care InterQual® criteria in reviewing medical necessity for medical procedures and durable medical equipment.

**Criteria:**

The InterQual® Criteria modules utilized by Neighborhood when determining medical necessity for durable medical equipment and medical procedures include:

<b>InterQual® Modules</b>
Care Planning (CP): Procedures
Care Planning (CP): Durable Medical Equipment

- A review of the medical documentation is compared to the InterQual® criteria specific to the services/items requested to determine if the services/items meet criteria outlined in the applicable InterQual® subset specific to the service and/or items requested. Services requested must meet the criteria outlined in the applicable InterQual® subset specific to the service/item requested.
- When InterQual® criteria are not met, the Utilization Management Nurses present the case and all associated information collected, to Neighborhood's Associate Medical Directors or Physician Reviewers, for a final determination.
- While Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island goes to great lengths to utilize existing coverage guidelines for the majority of review scenarios, requests are submitted that are not addressed by established criteria. In the event that a request cannot be adequately evaluated using established medical criteria (for example, Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations, or existing Clinical Medical Policies), the request will be forwarded to a medical doctor reviewer who will review the request using current evidence-based medicine.

**Exclusions and Limitations**

- Neighborhood does not cover experimental procedures or treatments, except as otherwise required by law.
- Also refer to Clinical Medical Policy "Experimental or Investigational Services."

**References:**

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicare Managed Care Manual. Chapter 4, Sections 90.1, 90.4.1, 90.4.2, 90.5

- InterQual®

### Authorization Request Forms

Access prior authorization request forms by visiting Neighborhood's website at [www.nhpri.org](http://www.nhpri.org).

1. Click on [Providers](#)
2. Click on [Provider Resources](#)
3. Click on [Forms](#)
4. Click on "[Click here for a list of prior authorization request forms](#)" – forms are listed alphabetically.  
A phone messaging system is in place for requests/inquiries both during and outside of business hours.  
Providers can call 1-800-963-1001 for assistance.

**Covered Codes:** For information on coding, please reference the [Authorization Quick Reference Guide](#).

### CMP Cross Reference:

<b>Created:</b>	December 2023
<b>Annual Review Month:</b>	February
<b>Review Dates:</b>	12/29/23, 2/14/24, 2/12/25
<b>Revision Dates:</b>	2/14/24
<b>CMC Review Date:</b>	2/14/24, 2/12/25
<b>Medical Director</b>	2/14/24, 2/12/25
<b>Approval Dates:</b>	
<b>Effective Dates:</b>	1/1/23, 2/14/24, 2/12/25

**Neighborhood reviews clinical medical policies on an annual basis.**

### Disclaimer:

Neighborhood has developed medical policies to assist us in administering health benefits. This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Members should always consult their physician before making any decisions about medical care. Treating providers are solely responsible for medical advice and treatment of members. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's coverage plan; a member's coverage plan will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on

**Procedures & Durable Medical  
Equipment - Integrity - #I-007**

Last reviewed: 2/12/25

member-specific benefits, call member services. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. Neighborhood reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.