

1 **Clinical Practice Guideline:** **Clinical Guidelines and Criteria**

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3 **Date of Implementation:** **February 9, 2006**

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5 **Product:** **Specialty**

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8 American Specialty Health – Specialty (ASH) is charged, through its role as a health plan, to:

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- Evaluate current peer-reviewed research literature, generally accepted standards of practice, and existing practice parameters relevant to services offered by the specialties represented by ASH;
- Develop clinical practice guidelines for these diagnostic and treatment planning practices;
- Obtain initial and annual review and approval of the clinical practice guidelines by ASH’s clinical committees, consisting of practicing, contracted clinicians;
- Implement clinical practice guidelines within ASH’s credentialing, clinical services, and clinical performance programs; and
- Manage practitioner compliance with these clinical practice guidelines and criteria.

ASH defines generally accepted standards of practice as those based on peer-reviewed, published research, and the educational standards accepted by the majority of the profession’s educational institutions that are core to the profession. Practices and protocols that are incorporated into baseline education, competency training, and certification or licensure testing requirements of the profession’s regulators (e.g., national and state boards and/or certifying entities) are also considered contributory to generally accepted standards of practice. The following definitions are applied:

**Generally Accepted Standards of Medical Practice:**

Generally accepted standards of medical practice refer to standards that are based on **Credible Scientific Evidence** published in peer-reviewed **Medical Literature** generally recognized by the relevant medical community<sup>1</sup>, practitioner and **Healthcare Provider Specialty Society** recommendations, and the views of practitioner and Healthcare Providers practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

**Credible Scientific Evidence:**

Credible Scientific Evidence is clinically relevant scientific information used to support the diagnosis or treatment of a member that: meets industry standard research quality criteria, is

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<sup>1</sup> The term Medical Community as used in ASH policy means that body of appropriately credentialed healthcare providers who engage in clinical practice, academic research, professional education, and clinical administration within the scope of the applicable clinical guidelines.

1 adopted as credible by an ASH clinical peer review committee, and has been published in an  
 2 acceptable peer reviewed clinical science resource.

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 4 **Medical Literature:**

5 Medical Literature is clinically relevant clinical science information published in an acceptable  
 6 peer reviewed clinical science resource.

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 8 **Healthcare Provider Specialty Society:**

9 A Healthcare Provider Specialty Society is a society of specialty practitioners that represents  
 10 a significant number of practicing practitioners or academic or clinical research institutions for  
 11 that specialty.

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 13 ASH maintains a Clinical Services Program and a Quality Improvement Program in  
 14 accordance with nationally recognized health care accreditation organization standards, client  
 15 delegation requirements, and applicable state and federal laws and regulations. ASH verifies  
 16 Covered Services are Medically Necessary Services through its Clinical Services Program.  
 17 ASH evaluates the quality of services through its Quality Improvement Program in order to  
 18 ensure the delivery of safe and clinically effective services to members. Practitioners  
 19 participate in these programs by providing the necessary clinical information to support the  
 20 medical necessity of services and by documenting and demonstrating clinical performance in  
 21 accordance with professionally recognized standards of practice. Selected credentialed  
 22 practitioners also participate on clinical peer review committees responsible for review and  
 23 approval of clinical policy, as well as credentialing, quality management, and member  
 24 grievance decisions.

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 26 Clinical decisions are made by ASH in support of its Clinical Services Program and Quality  
 27 Improvement Program and in accordance with the guidelines and criteria described in its  
 28 policies and Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs), including but not limited to:

<b>Clinical Practice Guidelines</b>	
CPG 1	X-Ray Guidelines
CPG 2	Practice Parameters and Review Criteria
CPG 3	Quality Patient Management
CPG 12	Medical Necessity Decision Assist Guideline for Rehabilitative Care
CPG 102	Radiographic Quality and Safety Parameters
CPG 110	Medical Record Maintenance and Documentation Practices
CPG 111	Patient Assessments: Medical Necessity Decision Assist Guideline for Evaluations, Re-evaluations and Consultations

<b>Clinical Practice Guidelines</b>	
CPG 121	Passive Physiotherapy Modalities
CPG 135	Physical Therapy Medical Policy/Guidelines
CPG 155	Occupational Therapy Medical Policy/Guidelines
CPG 156	Wound Care
CPG 157	Lymphedema
CPG 165	Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – Outpatient Rehabilitation
CPG 166	Speech-Language Pathology/Speech Therapy Guidelines
CPG 264	Acupuncture Services Medical Policy/Guideline
CPG 278	Chiropractic Services Medical Policy/Guideline
CPG 285	Spinal Manipulative Therapy (SMT) for Musculoskeletal and Related Disorders

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<b>Clinical Policies</b>	
UM 2	Medical Necessity Review
UM 8	Medical Necessity Definition
UM 9	Clinical Performance System
UM 9 PTOTST	Clinical Performance System – Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy
UM 10	Use of Industry Standard Code Sets
QM 1	Quality Improvement Program
QM 7	Patient Safety - The Prevention, Recognition, and Management of Adverse Outcomes
QM 10	Management of Urgent Clinical Concerns
QM 11	Management of Suspected Abuse/Neglect Cases
QM 32	Evidence Based Health Information Evaluation/Technology Assessment

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3 ASH has also developed individual Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) related to specific  
4 techniques, procedures, and technologies. These CPGs, as well as the policies and CPGs listed  
5 above, are available for review on the ASHLink.com website and/or available upon request.