**PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA**

**GUIDELINE / PROCEDURE**

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## I. RELATED POLICIES:

A. MCUP3041 - Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) Review Process
B. MCUG3007 - Authorization of Ambulatory Procedures and Services
C. MPUP3042 - Technology Assessment
D. MCUP3013 - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Authorization
E. MPUP3139 – Criteria and Guidelines for Utilization Management

## II. IMPACTED DEPTS:

A. Health Services
B. Claims
C. Member Services

## III. DEFINITIONS:

A. California Children's Services (CCS): A state program for children up to 21 years of age, who have been determined eligible for the CCS program due to the presence of certain diseases or health problems.
B. Continuous glucose monitor: A device to measure glucose levels in the interstitial fluid through the use of a sensor placed under the skin. A transmitter sends information about glucose levels to a wireless monitor attached externally. These devices display glucose levels at either 1 or 5 minute intervals with the option to set alarms alerting the individual to abnormal glucose levels. Greater amounts of data collection may provide more insight regarding glucose patterns.
C. Diabetologist: A physician who is Board Certified in Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM). [*Note that this is not an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) board certification*.]
D. Direct Member: Direct Members are those whose service needs are such that Primary Care Provider (PCP) assignment would not meet their care needs. Assignment to Direct Member status is based on the Member's aid code, prime insurance, demographics or administrative approval based on qualified circumstances. A Referral Authorization Form (RAF) is not required for Direct Members to see Partnership network providers and/or certified Medi-Cal providers (or Medicare providers as applicable for Partnership Advantage enrollees) willing to bill Partnership for covered services. However, many specialists will still request a RAF from the PCP to communicate background patient information to the specialist and to maintain good communication with the PCP. When a PCP is not assigned, Partnership supports coordination of care among providers.
E. Insulin pump: Also known as subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII), an insulin pump is an external ambulatory infusion device used for managing insulin-requiring Diabetes Mellitus (DM). By continuous administration of short acting insulin at preselected rate, the insulin pump can improve the patient glycemic control and delay, prevent, or reduce their risk of complications (e.g. neuropathy, nephropathy, retinopathy.)

F. Partnership Advantage: Effective January 1, 2028, Partnership HealthPlan of California will operate a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)-approved Dual-Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) in specific counties as described in the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) CalAIM Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan Policy Guide. This line of business will be known as Partnership Advantage and will be a Medicare Advantage plan offered to all full-benefit, dual-eligible beneficiaries 21 years of age or older who reside in the applicable counties. Partnership Advantage enrollees will be qualified to receive both Medi-Cal and Medicare services as described in the Partnership Advantage Member Handbook. Coverage criteria apply on implementation of D-SNP, effective January 1, 2028 and subject to CMS and DHCS approval.

G. Whole Child Model (WCM): A comprehensive program for the whole child encompassing providing comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services and care coordination in the areas of primary, specialty, and behavioral health for any pediatric Member with a CCS-eligible condition(s) insured by Partnership.

## IV. ATTACHMENTS:

A. CCS NL 06-1120 Authorization of Insulin Infusion Pumps - Revised 11/17/2020

## V. PURPOSE:

To describe the guidelines used by Partnership HealthPlan of California's Utilization Management (UM) staff when reviewing a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) for an external insulin infusion pump and/or a continuous glucose monitor.

## VI. GUIDELINE / PROCEDURE:

A. Partnership reviews Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) for external insulin infusion pumps and/or a continuous glucose monitors according to appropriate regulatory guidance (as described in policy MPUP3139 Criteria and Guidelines for Utilization Management).
   1. For Partnership Medi-Cal Members: TARs are reviewed according to required standards set forth by the State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and criteria provided in the DHCS Medi-Cal Provider Manual Guidelines.
      a. InterQual® and other industry-accepted guidelines will also be used, along with other policies developed by Partnership, as described in MPUP3139 Criteria and Guidelines for Utilization Management.
      b. For Members under the age of 21 who are eligible for California Children's Services (CCS), please also refer to CCS guidelines for Insulin Infusion Pumps in Attachment A.
   2. For Partnership Advantage Enrollees: TARs are reviewed according to Section 40 of the CMS Medicare guidance for Part C & D Organization/ Coverage Determinations and other CMS guidelines and criteria sets that may include, but are not limited, to the following:
      a. Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual
         1) For insulin infusion pumps see NCD 280.14
      b. Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) policy
         1) For external insulin infusion pumps see L33794
         2) For glucose monitors see L33822
      c. In the event that national and/or local coverage determination is silent on the matter, Partnership uses InterQual® and other industry accepted guidelines, along with other policies developed by Partnership, as described in MPUP3139 Criteria and Guidelines for Utilization Management.

B. INSULIN INFUSION PUMPS

An insulin infusion pump must be ordered by the Primary Care Provider (PCP) or endocrinologist or diabetologist treating the Member through a referral from the PCP. For Direct Members, the insulin infusion pump must be ordered by the physician who is currently managing the medical care for the Member.

1. Partnership utilizes InterQual® criteria to determine the necessity of a pump.
   a. For Partnership Advantage enrollees, Medicare guidelines will also be considered.
2. The TAR for an insulin infusion pump must include documentation of the medical necessity for home use of the insulin infusion pump that includes the following information related to the condition:
   a. A valid order/prescription
   b. The most recent Hgb A1c results
   c. Chart notes from the PCP or specialist managing the diabetes care of the Member which include the following:
      1) Length of time the Member has had diabetes
      2) Documentation the insulin pump is needed as part of the plan of care in managing the diabetes
      3) Evaluation of the Member's compliance with the diabetes treatment plan
      4) Documentation that the Member is insulin dependent or on agents that are associated with hypoglycemia
3. Partnership authorizes the least costly medically necessary insulin pump.
   a. Omnipod pumps may be considered for CCS Members on a case-by-case basis, according to criteria specified in CCS Numbered Letter 06-1120 (Attachment A).
   b. Omnipod pumps may be considered for Partnership Advantage enrollees on a case-by-case basis according to Section 40 of the CMS Medicare guidance for Part C Organization Determinations and criteria stated in NCD 280.14 and LCD L33794.
4. Insulin infusion pumps should only be prescribed and managed by practitioners familiar with this operation.

C. CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING (CGM) SYSTEMS

Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) requests received by Partnership will be reviewed on a case by case basis for medical necessity according to Medi-Cal or Medicare guidelines (including Medicare LCD L33822), as applicable for Partnership Medi-Cal Members or Partnership Advantage enrollees.

1. CGMs Dispensed through a Pharmacy Provider:
   a. Partnership Medi-Cal Members: CGM systems are covered as pharmacy-billed items through Medi-Cal Rx. Refer to the Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual for details.
      1) Partnership does not review TARs received for medications and services in the scope of Medi-Cal Rx. The pharmacy or provider submitting the TAR should send the TAR to the DHCS-contracted pharmacy administrator for review and processing.
         a) According to the Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual, prior authorization is required for Members who are pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum and have gestational diabetes, Type 1 diabetes or Type 2 diabetes.
            i. Estimated date of delivery and recent glycosylated hemoglobin (Hemoglobin A1c) results are required for medical justification.
   b. Partnership Advantage Enrollees: Effective January 1, 2028, the pharmacy benefit for Partnership Advantage enrollees is delegated to a pharmacy benefit manager.
      1) Note that Medicare prohibits Part D (pharmacy) coverage when Part B (DME) is available.
2. Authorization of CGMs through Partnership when ordered through a Contracted DME Provider:
   a. In the event that a CGM system is not available to the Member through a Medi-Cal Rx pharmacy, a TAR may be submitted to Partnership with documentation of the medical necessity for home use of CGM therapy that includes the following information related to the condition:
      1) A valid order/prescription
      2) The most recent Hgb A1c results
      3) Chart notes from the PCP or specialist managing the diabetes care of the Member with the following information:

a) Length of time the Member has had diabetes
b) Documentation that CGM is needed as part of the plan of care in managing the diabetes
c) Evaluation of the Member's compliance with the diabetes treatment plan
d) Documentation by provider that Member checks blood glucose readings 3- 4 times daily

4) Documentation that the device is not available from a Medi-Cal Rx pharmacy

3. Continuous Glucose Monitoring is proven and considered medically necessary in the following clinical scenarios:
   a. Short-term (3 - 7 days) of continuous glucose monitoring by a healthcare provider for diagnostic purposes is proven and medically necessary for patients with diabetes. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes used for this service are 95250 and 95251. Limit one of each code per dates of service in a single calendar month. No TAR is required.
   b. Long-term continuous glucose monitoring for personal use at home is proven and medically necessary as a supplement to self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) for patients with type 1 diabetes, cystic fibrosis related diabetes, or sequelae of a CCS eligible condition that requires chronic insulin therapy, who have demonstrated adherence to a physician ordered diabetic treatment plan.
      1) InterQual® criteria will apply for coverage determination for adults and children with type 1 diabetes mellitus.
      2) CGMs are a covered benefit for children 20 years of age or younger with type 1 diabetes mellitus.
   c. Long-term continuous glucose monitoring for patients with type 2 or gestational diabetes are reviewed on a case-by-case basis for medical necessity.

## VI. REFERENCES:


A. Medi-Cal Provider Manual/Guidelines: Durable Medical Equipment (DME): Infusion Equipment (dura inf); Durable Medical Equipment (DME): Billing Codes (dura cd); Pregnancy: Early Care and Diagnostic Services (preg early)
B. Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual
C. InterQual® 2026 DME criteria – Continuous Glucose Monitoring, Insulin Pumps, and Automated Insulin Delivery Technology.
D. Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) Manual 100-03: Chapter 1, Part 4, Section 280.14 Infusion Pumps. Implementation date 02/18/2005 or any subsequent updates published by CMS.
E. Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L33794 External Infusion Pumps Revision Effective Date 10/01/2024 or any subsequent updates published by CMS.
F. Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L33822 Continuous Glucose Monitors, Revision Effective Date 10/01/2024 or any subsequent updates published by CMS.
G. McCulloch DK. Blood glucose self-monitoring in management of adults with diabetes mellitus. UpToDate Inc., Waltham, MA.
H. International Hypoglycemia Study Group. Diabetes Care. November 21, 2016 http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/early/2016/11/09/dc16-2215
E. *Diabetes Care* 2019;42(8):1593-1603. International Consensus Report: Clinical Targets for Continuous Glucose Monitoring Data Interpretation: Recommendations from the International Consensus on Time in Range.
F. *Diabetes Therapy* 2019;10:853-863. A View Beyond HbA1c: Role of Continuous Glucose Monitoring.
G. CCS Numbered Letter (NL) 06-1120 Authorization of Insulin Infusion Pumps - Revised 11/17/2020
H. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All Plan Letter (APL) 25-013 Medi-Cal Rx Pharmacy Benefits and Cell and Gene Therapy Coverage (09/18/2025)

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**VII. DISTRIBUTION:**

A. Partnership Department Directors
B. Partnership Provider Manual

**VIII. POSITION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURE:** Chief Health Services Officer

**IX. REVISION DATES:**

Partnership Advantage (Effective 01/01/2028)
06/11/25; 08/12/26

Medi-Cal
04/28/00; 06/20/01; 09/18/02; 09/15/04; 11/16/05; 08/20/08; 10/01/10; 05/16/12; 04/15/15; 03/16/16; 04/19/17; 10/18/17; *11/14/18; 11/13/19; 10/14/20; 02/10/21; 04/14/21; 03/09/22; 03/08/23; 03/13/24; 06/11/25; 08/12/26

*Through 2017, Approval Date reflective of the Quality/Utilization Advisory Committee meeting date. Effective January 2018, Approval Date reflects that of the Physician Advisory Committee's meeting date.

**PREVIOUSLY APPLIED TO:**
Healthy Kids MPUG3025 (Healthy Kids program ended 12/01/2016)
08/20/08; 10/01/10; 05/16/12; 04/15/15; 03/16/16 to 12/01/2016

Healthy Families
MPUG3025 - 10/01/10 to 03/01/2014

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In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, Section 1363.5, this policy was developed with involvement from actively practicing health care providers and meets these provisions:

- Consistent with sound clinical principles and processes
- Evaluated and updated at least annually
- If used as the basis of a decision to modify, delay or deny services in a specific case, the criteria will be disclosed to the provider and/or enrollee upon request

The materials provided are guidelines used by Partnership to authorize, modify or deny services for persons with similar illnesses or conditions. Specific care and treatment may vary depending on individual need and the benefits covered under Partnership.

Partnership's authorization requirements comply with the requirements for parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits in 42 CFR 438.910.