



**OPTIONAL RECOMMENDED CLINICAL REVIEW
FOR ELECTIVE INPATIENT & OUTPATIENT SERVICES FOR
TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS (TRS).
EFFECTIVE 01/01/2026**

- A **Recommended Clinical Review** is an optional review for medical necessity which occurs before services are completed for a Covered Service and helps limit the situations where a service may be denied based upon medical necessity retrospectively.
- **Recommended Clinical Reviews** for elective inpatient services and outpatient services managed by BCBSTX medical management can be submitted using the [Availity® Authorizations and Referrals](#) tool or calling the number on the back of the participant ID card. RCR for outpatient services managed by Carelon Medical Benefits Management can be submitted online at [Carelon ProviderPortal](#) or by phone 1-800-859-5299.
- For more information on **Recommended Clinical Review**, refer to [Utilization Management](#) on the provider website.

Inpatient RCR applies to all TRS Plans

Providers can submit an optional Recommended Clinical Review for the following elective inpatient services:

Elective Inpatient Medical/Surgical Facility Admissions Including Transfers:

- Acute Care/Hospital Hospice, Maternity, Medical, Surgical, Transplant)
- Hospice Care
- Long Term Acute Care/Sub-acute
- Rehabilitation Facility
- Skilled Nursing Facility

Elective Behavioral Health and Chemical Dependency Facility Admissions:

- Inpatient Rehab
- Residential Treatment Center

Applies to TRS ASO Plans ONLY (No "TDI" on ID Card)

Providers can submit an optional Recommended Clinical Review for the following outpatient services:

Outpatient Medical/Surgical Services managed by:
Carelon:

- Advanced Imaging / Radiology, Cardiology
- Molecular Genetic Lab Testing
- Musculoskeletal - Joint, Spine Surgery, Musculoskeletal - Pain
- Radiation Therapy / Radiation Oncology
- Sleep

BCBSTX: Select Outpatient Services including but not limited to:

- Cardiology – Lipid Apheresis
- Ear, Nose and Throat
- Gastroenterology
- Neurology

- Outpatient Surgery (Breast, Deactivation of Headache Triggers, Jaw)
- Pain Management
- Wound Care
- Home Health Services including but not limited to home private duty nursing, home infusion therapy and PT/OT/ST
- Home Hemodialysis
- Home Hospice
- Home Infusion Therapy
- Medical Transportation (*through Alacura Medical Transportation Management*)
- Transplant Services, Transplant Evaluations and Transplants
- Durable Medical Equipment >\$5,000
- Outpatient Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Outpatient:

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Partial Hospitalization
- Psychological Testing/Neuropsychological Testing
- Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation

Specialty Pharmacy Medications that are covered by Medical Benefits

- Infusion Site of Care - medical necessity review for therapy and for place of infusion.
- Medical Oncology & Supportive Care (through Carelon) – medical necessity review for oncology drugs that are supported by an oncology diagnosis.
- Provider Administered Drug Therapies - medical necessity review for therapy only.

RECOMMENDED CLINICAL REVIEW SCREENING CRITERIA EFFECTIVE 09/01/2024	
MEDICAL/SURGICAL SCREENING CRITERIA	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENING CRITERIA
• MCG Care Guidelines • BCBSTX Medical Policies • American Society of Addiction Medicine Criteria • Texas Department of Insurance Standards for Reasonable Cost Control and Utilization Review for Chemical Dependency Treatment Centers for CD service provided in Texas • Carelon Medical Benefits Management (vendor solution): Carelon Evidence-based Guidelines	• MCG Care Guidelines • BCBSTX Medical Policies • Texas Department of Insurance Standards for Reasonable Cost Control and Utilization Review for Chemical Dependency Treatment Centers • American Society of Addiction Medicine Criteria

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Alacura Medical Transportation Management, LLC. is an independent company that has contracted with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas to provide utilization management services for members with coverage through BCBSTX.

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