



## Clinical Practice Guideline Hierarchy

### BACKGROUND

In order to provide consistent quality health care to members, WellCare adopts Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs). While clinical judgment may supersede the CPGs, the guidelines aid Providers with guidelines centered on procedures, pre-appraised resources and informational tools to assist in applying evidence from research in the care of individual members and populations. The CPGs are based on medical evidence and are relevant to the population served. The guidelines support quality and efficiency of care by establishing guidance to improve care for behavioral health, chronic disease, and preventive care. CPGs are reviewed at least every two years and revised as necessary. When there are differing opinions noted by national organizations, WellCare will default to the member's benefit structure as deemed by state contracts and Medicaid and Medicare regulations. If there is no specific language pertaining to the topic, WellCare will default (in order) to the following:

- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA);
- United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), National Quality Strategy (NQS), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ);
- Specialty associations, colleges, societies, etc. (e.g., American Academy of Family Physicians, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Cancer Society, etc.).

Links to websites below are provided for the convenience of Providers. Listings do not imply endorsement by WellCare of the information contained on these websites. At the time of publication, all links were up to date.

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GUIDELINES

WellCare aligns with the following organizations for the noted behavioral health topics below:

#### **ADHD: HS-1020**

American Academic of Pediatrics

*ADHD: Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of ADHD in Children and Adolescents*

Available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/10/14/peds.2011-2654.full.pdf>

#### **Antipsychotic Drug Use in Children: HS-1045**

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)

*Practice Parameter for the Use of Atypical Antipsychotic Medications in Children and Adolescents*

Available at [https://www.aacap.org/App\\_Themes/AACAP/docs/practice\\_parameters/Atypical\\_Antipsychotic\\_Medications\\_Web.pdf](https://www.aacap.org/App_Themes/AACAP/docs/practice_parameters/Atypical_Antipsychotic_Medications_Web.pdf)

#### **Bipolar Disorder: HS-1017**

American Psychiatric Association (APA)

*Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Bipolar Disorder, Second Edition (2002)*

*Guideline Watch (update to 2002 edition) (2005)*

Available at <http://psychiatryonline.org/guidelines>

**Depressive Disorders in Children and Adolescents: HS-1022**

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)  
*Practice Parameter for the Assessment & Treatment of Children & Adolescents w/ Depressive Disorders* (2007)  
Available at [http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567\(09\)62053-0/pdf](http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567(09)62053-0/pdf)

**Major Depressive Disorders in Adults: HS-1008**

American Psychiatric Association (APA)  
*Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder, Third Edition* (October 2010)  
Available at [http://psychiatryonline.org/pb/assets/raw/sitewide/practice\\_guidelines/guidelines/mdd.pdf](http://psychiatryonline.org/pb/assets/raw/sitewide/practice_guidelines/guidelines/mdd.pdf)

**Schizophrenia: HS-1026**

American Psychiatric Association (APA)  
*Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Schizophrenia, Second Edition* (2004)  
*Guideline Watch: Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Schizophrenia* (2009)  
Available at <http://psychiatryonline.org/guidelines>

**Substance Use Disorders: HS-1031**

American Psychiatric Association (APA)  
*Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Substance Use Disorders, Second Edition* (August 2006)  
*Guideline Watch: Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Substance Use Disorders* (April 2007)  
Available at <http://psychiatryonline.org/guidelines>

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)  
*Practice Parameter for the Assessment & Treatment of Children & Adolescents w/ Substance Use Disorders* (2005)  
Available at [http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567\(09\)61641-5/pdf](http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567(09)61641-5/pdf)

**Suicidal Behavior: HS-1027**

American Psychiatric Association (APA)  
*Practice Guideline for the Assessment and Treatment of Patients with Suicidal Behaviors* (2003)  
Available at <http://psychiatryonline.org/guidelines>

**CHRONIC HEALTH GUIDELINES**

WellCare aligns with the following organizations for the noted medical conditions below:

**Asthma: HS-1001**

Global Initiative for Asthma  
*Pocket Guide for Asthma Management and Prevention* (December 2014)  
Available at <http://www.ginasthma.org/documents/1>

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  
*Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma* (2007)  
Available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/index.htm>

**Cancer: HS-1034**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
*Cancer Screening and Recommendations* (various)  
Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

*Practice Guidelines*

Available at <http://www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Guidelines/Clinical+Practice+Guidelines>

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)

*NCCN Guidelines (2014-2015)*

Available at [http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/f\\_guidelines.asp](http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp)

American Cancer Society (ACS)

*Screening and Treatment Guidelines*

Available at <http://www.cancer.org/healthy/findcancerearly/cancerscreeningguidelines/index>

**Cholesterol Management: HS-1005**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

*Screening for Lipid Disorders in Adults (2008)*

Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA)

*ACC/AHA Guideline on the Treatment of Blood Cholesterol to Reduce Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Risk in Adults: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (2013)*

Available at <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2013/11/11/01.cir.0000437738.63853.7a>

**Chronic Kidney Disease: HS-1006**

National Kidney Foundation

*Chronic Kidney Disease: Evaluation, Classification, and Stratification (2002)*

Available at [https://www.kidney.org/professionals/guidelines/guidelines\\_commentaries](https://www.kidney.org/professionals/guidelines/guidelines_commentaries)

**Congestive Heart Failure: HS-1003**

American College of Chest Physicians (ACCF) and the American Heart Association (AHA)

*ACCF/AHA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure: Executive Summary (2013)*

Available at <http://content.onlinejacc.org/article.aspx?articleid=1695826>

**Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): HS-1007**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

*Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): Screening (2007)*

Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD)

*GOLD Global Strategy for Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of COPD (January 2014)*

Available at <http://www.goldcopd.org>

American College of Physicians, American College of Chest Physicians, American Thoracic Society, and European Respiratory Society

*Diagnosis and Management of Stable Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Clinical Practice Guideline*

Authored by Qaseem A, Wilt TJ, Weinberger S, Hanania NA, Criner G, van der Molen T, et al. 2011. *Annals of Internal Medicine*;155:179-191

**Coronary Artery Disease: HS-1002**

American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA)  
ACC/AHA Prevention Guideline on the Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk – A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (2013)  
Available at [http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/129/25\\_suppl\\_2/S49.short?rss=1&ssource=mfr](http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/129/25_suppl_2/S49.short?rss=1&ssource=mfr)

American Heart Association (AHA) and the American College of Cardiology (ACC)  
*AHA/ACC Guideline for the Management of Patients With Valvular Heart Disease: Executive Summary; A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (2014)*  
Available at <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/129/23/2440.full>

American Heart Association (AHA) and the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF)  
*Secondary Prevention and Risk Reduction Therapy for Patients With Coronary and Other Atherosclerotic Vascular Disease (AVD) (2011)*  
Available at <http://content.onlinejacc.org/article.aspx?articleid=1147807>

Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI)  
*Coronary Artery Disease, Stable (2013)*  
Available at [https://www.icsi.org/\\_asset/t6bh6a/SCAD.pdf](https://www.icsi.org/_asset/t6bh6a/SCAD.pdf)

**Diabetes in Adults: HS-1009**

**Diabetes in Children: HS-1004**

American Diabetes Association (ADA)  
*Executive Summary: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes (January 2014)*  
Available at [http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/37/Supplement\\_1/S5.full](http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/37/Supplement_1/S5.full)

**Hypertension: HS-1010**

Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8)  
*Evidence-Based Guideline for the Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults: Report From the Panel Members Appointed to the Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8) (2014)*  
Available at <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1791497>

**Obesity in Adults: HS-1013**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
*Screening for Obesity in Adults (2012)*  
Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

**Obesity in Children: HS-1014**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
*Screening for Obesity in Children and Adolescents (2010)*  
Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

**PREVENTIVE HEALTH GUIDELINES**

WellCare aligns with the following organizations for the noted preventive health topics below:

**Adult Preventive Health: HS-1018**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
*USPSTF Recommendations*  
Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
*Recommended Immunization Schedules for Adults Aged 19 Years and Older* (2015)  
Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-schedule.pdf>

American Diabetes Association (ADA)  
Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes (January 2015)  
Available at <http://diabetes.teithe.gr/UsersFiles/entypa/STANDARDS%20OF%20MEDICAL%20CARE%20IN%20DIABETES%202015.pdf>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
*Third Report of the National Cholesterol Education Program Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults (Adult Treatment Panel III). Final Report.* (2002)  
Available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/cholesterol/atp3full.pdf>

### **Pediatric Preventive Health: HS-1019**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
*USPSTF Recommendations*  
Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
*Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 through 18 Years* (2015)  
Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-schedule.pdf>

American Academy of Pediatrics  
*Bright Futures / American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care* (2014)  
Available at [https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/periodicity/periodicity%20schedule\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/periodicity/periodicity%20schedule_FINAL.pdf)

### **Smoking Cessation: HS-1035**

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
*Tobacco Smoking Cessation in Adults, Incl. Pregnant Women: Behavioral & Pharmacotherapy Interventions* (2015)  
Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
*Tobacco Use in Children and Adolescents: Primary Care Interventions* (2013)  
Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>

United States Department of Health and Human Services  
*Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence* (2008)  
Available at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/buckets/treatingtobacco.pdf>

## **OTHER AVAILABLE GUIDELINES**

The following CPGs are also available and contain a variety of resources from various organizations:

- Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias: HS-1032
- Behavioral Health and Sexual Offenders in Adults: HS-1039
- Behavioral Health Conditions in High Risk Pregnancy: HS-1040
- Eating Disorders: HS-1046
- Fall Risk Assessment in Older Adults: HS-1033
- HIV Antiretroviral Treatment: HS-1023
- HIV Screening: HS-1024
- Imaging for Low Back: HS-1012
- Lead Exposure: HS-1011
- Motivational Interviewing and Health Behavior Change: HS-1042

- Pharyngitis: HS-1021
- Osteoporosis: HS-1015
- Palliative Care: HS-1045
- Persons with Serious Mental Illness and Medical Comorbidities: HS-1044
- Post-Partum: HS-1030
- Preconception and Interpregnancy: HS-1028
- Pregnancy: HS-1029
- Rheumatoid Arthritis: HS-1025
- Sickle Cell Disease: HS-1038
- Substance Use Disorders in High Risk Pregnancy: HS-1041
- Transitions of Care: HS-1054

**LEGAL DISCLAIMER**

The Clinical Coverage Guideline is intended to supplement certain standard WellCare benefit plans. The terms of a member's particular Benefit Plan, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, etc., may differ significantly from this Coverage Position. For example, a member's benefit plan may contain specific exclusions related to the topic addressed in this Clinical Coverage Guideline. When a conflict exists between the two documents, the Member's Benefit Plan always supersedes the information contained in the Clinical Coverage Guideline. Additionally, Clinical Coverage Guidelines relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans and are NOT recommendations for treatment, nor should they be used as treatment guidelines. The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any. Note: Lines of business (LOB) are subject to change without notice; current LOBs can be found at [www.wellcare.com](http://www.wellcare.com) – select the Provider tab, then "Tools" and "Clinical Guidelines".

*Easy Choice Health Plan, Inc. ~ Exactus Pharmacy Solutions, Inc. ~ Harmony Health Plan of Illinois, Inc. ~ Missouri Care, Incorporated  
WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc., operating in Hawai'i as 'Ohana Health Plan, Inc. ~ WellCare Health Plans of Kentucky, Inc. WellCare Health Plans of  
New Jersey, Inc. ~ WellCare of Connecticut, Inc. ~ WellCare of Florida, Inc., operating in Florida as Staywell  
WellCare of Kentucky, Inc. ~ WellCare of Georgia, Inc. ~ WellCare of Iowa, Inc. ~ WellCare of Louisiana, Inc. ~ WellCare of New York, Inc.  
WellCare of South Carolina, Inc. ~ WellCare of Texas, Inc. ~ WellCare Prescription Insurance, Inc. ~ Windsor Health Plan, Inc.*

**MEDICAL POLICY COMMITTEE HISTORY AND REVISIONS**

Date	Action
12/16/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approved by MPC. New.</li> </ul>