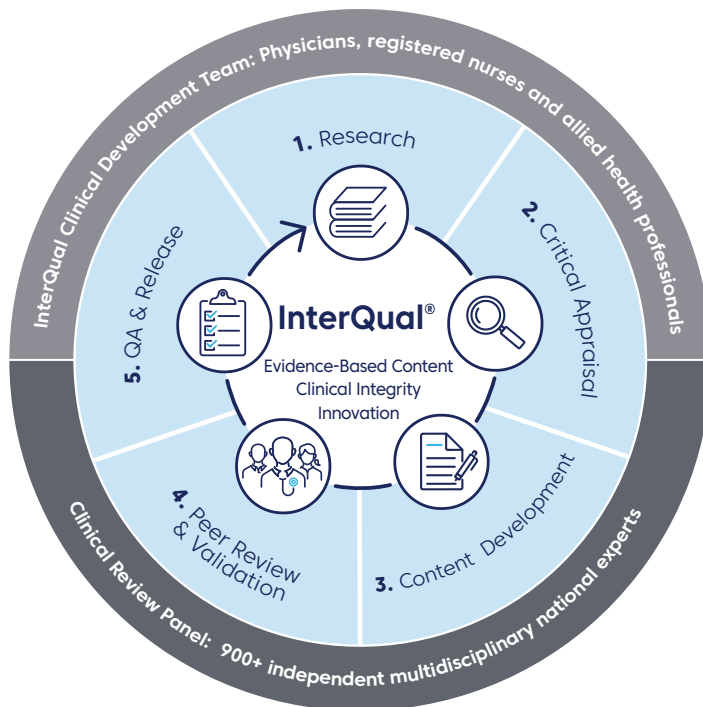


# InterQual Evidence-Based Criteria Development

Unmatched Clinical Integrity



InterQual® Criteria are produced using a rigorous development process based on the principles of evidence-based medicine (EBM) to give complete confidence in the underlying guidance the criteria provide. Our content development and updating approach involves a five-step process:

## 1. Identify Content for Development and Updating

- Teams of physicians, registered nurses, and allied health professionals monitor the latest evidence, national guidance, industry/regulatory trends, and client needs to identify, assess, and case-test potential new offerings and changes to existing content
- A proprietary, automated literature surveillance system monitors 2,000 key sites for newly published research and guidelines
- Criteria updates are provided at least once annually but as frequently as quarterly as new evidence warrants

## 2. Teams Identify and Critically Appraise Clinical Evidence

- Development teams formulate key questions and search bibliographic databases (e.g., PubMed) and other key sources (e.g., specialty societies)
- Study validity is evaluated using extensive training by the Delfini Group
- Sources are classified and cited; landmark studies are acknowledged when applicable
- Findings from multiple primary studies are combined using elements of the GRADE approach so that the overall quality of evidence is apparent for each clinically relevant outcome

## 3. Physician-led Groups Develop New and Updated Content

- New or updated evidence-based content drafts are created in an iterative process led by physicians
- Recommendations intended to optimize clinical outcomes while minimizing invasive, costly, or potentially harmful interventions are included
- Detailed notes and literature references are provided to show the clinical basis for decisions

## 4. Independent Clinical Review Panel Drawn from More than 900 Experts Provides Authoritative Peer Review

- All clinical review panel members are board-certified physicians or appropriately registered non-physicians, in active practice, and screened for conflicts of interest
- Multiple reviewers evaluate each proposed criteria point for correct interpretation of the literature
- For situations that do not lend themselves to accepted research methods, larger and more geographically dispersed groups of clinical experts are used to establish best practices which reflect the current standard of care

## 5. Clinical Team Conducts Final Quality Assurance Check and Releases Content

- A clinical team reviews content for completeness and clinical consistency across products as well as medical coding
- InterQual's medical director provides oversight throughout the development process to help ensure clinical accuracy
- Extensive clinical revision summaries accompany each release to explain changes and rationales



# Clinical Decision Support Across the Continuum of Care

## InterQual Criteria



Level of Care



Behavioral Health



Ambulatory Care Planning



Powered by InterQual



Care Coordination

Level of Care	Behavioral Health	Ambulatory Care Planning	Powered by InterQual	Care Coordination
Acute Adult	Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry	Procedures	Medicare Procedures	InterQual Coordinated Care
Acute Pediatric	Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Imaging	Proprietary 3rd Party Content	
Long Term Acute Care	Substance Use Disorders	Durable Medical Equipment		
Acute Rehabilitation	Behavioral Procedures	Molecular Diagnostics		
Subacute and Skilled Nursing		Specialty Rx Oncology		
Home Care		Specialty Rx Non-Oncology		
Outpatient Rehab and Chiropractic		Specialty Referral		
		Retrospective Monitoring		

### Objective, Specific, and Comprehensive Clinical Content

InterQual Criteria are objective and specific, helping guide consistent, defensible decisions that ensure appropriate, quality care. The portfolio of five content suites offers comprehensive content that spans the continuum of care for medical and behavioral health.

### Rigorous, Evidence-Based Development Process

Our highly trained clinical development team performs a systematic review and critical appraisal of the evidence using elements of the GRADE approach to help ensure InterQual Criteria reflect the best available clinical evidence. No other criteria provide a higher level of accuracy and timeliness than InterQual. Developed with rigor and objectivity, InterQual's content is updated frequently to remain current with the latest evidence.

### Extensive Peer Review

Our clinical review panel of more than 900 independent, multidisciplinary experts provide extensive, multi-level peer review. For cases that don't lend themselves to clinical trials, our experts help ensure that the InterQual Criteria reflect the latest standard of care and best practices.

### InterQual is Trusted by:



4,600+ Hospitals and Facilities



280+ Managed Care Organizations



100% RACs, MACs, CMS



Both QIOs Conducting 2 Midnight Reviews