



Title:	Adoption, Management, and Distribution of Practice Guidelines				
Department/Line of Business:	Quality Improvement				
Approver(s):	VP CMO, SWHP				
Location/Region/Division:	SWHP				
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LINE OF BUSINESS

This document applies to the following line(s) of business:
All SWHP & ICSW

DEFINITIONS

When used in this document with initial capital letter(s), the following word(s)/phrase(s) have the meaning(s) set forth below unless a different meaning is required by context. Additional defined terms may be found in the BSWH P&P Definitions document.

Evidence-based guidelines - Clinical practice guidelines known to be effective in improving health outcomes. Effectiveness of guidelines is determined by scientific evidence; or by professional standards, in the absence of scientific evidence; or by expert opinion, in the absence of professional standards.

Recognized sources - Organizations that develop or promulgate evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and include professional medical associations, voluntary health organizations and National Institutes of Health (NIH) Centers and Institutes.

POLICY

Scott & White Health Plan's (SWHP's) Quality Improvement Subcommittee (QIS) adopts and distributes evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, at least two medical conditions and at least two behavioral conditions with at least one behavioral guideline addressing children and adolescents, that are relevant to the enrolled population. SWHP's QIS also adopts and distributes evidence-based preventive health guidelines for perinatal care, care for children up to 24 months old, care for children 2-19 years old, care for adults 20-64 years old, and care for adults 65 years and older. Guidelines are developed in consideration of the health needs of the covered populations including Commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare.

PROCEDURE

SWHP adopts clinical practice guidelines from recognized sources utilizing participating practitioners in the adoption and review process with the scientific literature source cited in the guideline. Guidelines are reviewed against clinical evidence and updated at least every two years, or more frequently if national guidelines change within the two-year period. Guideline revisions are disseminated to all affected practitioners, and upon request to members and potential members. Guidelines serve as the clinical basis for disease management and complex case management programs, utilization management criteria, and quality improvement initiatives including member education and preventive care outreach. At a minimum, applicable audited Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) results are used to measure performance. SWHP employs substantive provider motivational incentive strategies to improve provider compliance with clinical practice guidelines.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

None.

REFERENCES

2017 NCQA Health Plan Standards, QI 7 Clinical Practice Guidelines

Texas Administrative Code Rule §11.1902

CMS Managed Care Manual Chapter 5 Quality Assessment

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, §438.236 Practice Guidelines

Texas Medicaid Managed Care Contract, Section 8.1.7.6 Clinical Practice Guidelines

The information contained in this document should not be considered standards of professional practice or rules of conduct or for the benefit of any third party. This document is intended to provide guidance and, generally, allows for professional discretion and/or deviation when the individual health care provider or, if applicable, the "Approver" deems appropriate under the circumstances.