InterQual Specialty Rx Criteria
Guiding Appropriate Specialty Drug Therapies

Spending on specialty pharmaceuticals is increasing at a dramatic pace, with specialty drugs expected to account for 40% of U.S. drug expenditures by 2014.¹ The rising costs of oncology treatments are an area of particular concern for stakeholders managing patients as well as those managing benefits. Today, more than 900 cancer compounds are in development², and oncology drugs will likely grow to become the second or third largest category driving drug spending by 2015 and beyond.³

Given the complexity and expense of specialty pharmaceuticals, payers and clinicians need intelligent resources to make the most clinically appropriate decisions when managing cost and quality.

InterQual® Specialty Rx Criteria products help guide organizations toward the most appropriate specialty drugs to reduce cost and improve outcomes. Provided in an intuitive Q&A software format, InterQual Specialty Rx Criteria include guidelines for on-label and off-label use of drugs and recommend alternative drugs with comparable efficacy based on the clinical evidence. In addition, some criteria support step therapy by recommending less intensive drugs first.

McKesson offers two InterQual Specialty Rx Criteria products: InterQual Specialty Rx Non-Oncology Criteria and InterQual Specialty Rx Oncology Criteria. The world-class InterQual clinical development team develop the criteria for on-label and off-label use of non-oncology drugs found within InterQual Specialty Rx Non-Oncology Criteria as well as the criteria for on-label use of oncology drugs found within InterQual Specialty Rx Oncology Criteria. The InterQual Specialty Rx Oncology Criteria for off-label drug use incorporate content from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®), a prominent source of decision support solutions for the use of drugs and biologics in treating cancer.

³ Ibid.
You can incorporate the criteria seamlessly into your workflow via McKesson’s CareEnhance® Review Manager Enterprise and Clear Coverage™ solutions, as well as our business partners’ care management platforms.

**InterQual Specialty Rx Criteria help:**

- **Improve patient safety.** Evidence-based guidelines help patients receive the right therapy and avoid the use of drugs that are not medically necessary.

- **Enhance payer-provider collaboration.** Organizations widely known for their clinical rigor develop objective criteria, fostering provider confidence and adoption.

- **Increase efficiency.** Intuitive software delivers reliable criteria, reducing time spent on manual review processes.

- ** Expedite the approval process.** Recommendations for medically appropriate drugs appear directly within the medical necessity review workflow, helping to streamline authorizations.

- **Lower costs.** Having an objective, evidence-based source of criteria helps you avoid the extensive resources required to develop and maintain your own content, as well as helps prevent time-consuming, costly appeals.

**InterQual Specialty Rx Criteria offer:**

- **Q&A format.** This intuitive format supports efficient review workflows and helps reduce training time.

- **Alternative drug recommendations.** Rather than a “green-light, red light” approach, the criteria can suggest recommendations for alternative drugs as appropriate based upon the medical evidence and clinical scenario presented.

- **Support for off-label drug usage.** To help you make decisions based on comprehensive content, the criteria present evidence that supports off-label use. For example, InterQual Specialty Rx Oncology Criteria include the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® (NCCN Compendium®) and its categories of evidence and consensus for off-label oncology drug recommendations.

- **Step therapy recommendations.** You are presented with clear pathways to transition patients from less to more intensive options, helping to drive quality while managing costs.

- **Tracking and reporting of drug utilization.** You can specify the desired HCPCS J code, NDC and quantity to capture detailed information on the drug being authorized, including the manufacturer, strength and package type. You can then pass this information to an integrated care management or claims system for an efficient way to communicate what was authorized.

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**InterQual Specialty Rx Criteria**

**Non-Oncology Criteria**

**Example drugs:**
- Adalimumab (Humira®)
- Certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®)
- Etanercept (Enbrel®)
- Golimumab (Simponi®)
- Growth hormone
- Infliximab (Remicade®)
- Interferon beta-1a (Avonex®)
- Interferon beta-1b (Betaseron®)
- Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)
- Natalizumab (Tysabri®)
- OnabotulinumtoxinA (Botox®)
- Pegylated interferon alfa-2a (Pegasys®)

**Example conditions:**
- Crohn’s disease
- Factor deficiency
- Hepatitis
- Multiple sclerosis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

**Oncology Criteria**

**Example drugs:**
- Bevacizumab (Avastin®)
- Cetuximab (Erbitux®)
- Eribulin (Halaven®)
- Ixabepilone (Ixempra®)
- Nab-paclitaxel (Abraxane®)
- Palonosetron (Aloxi®)
- Panitumumab (Vectibix®)
- Pemetrexed disodium (Alimta®)
- Trastuzumab (Herceptin®)

**Example cancers:**
- Breast
- Central nervous system (brain)
- Cervical
- Colon
- Endometrial
- Esophageal and esophagogastric junction
- Gastric
- Non-small cell lung
- Ovarian (fallopian tube, primary peritoneal)
- Pancreatic
- Rectal
- Renal cell
- Soft tissue sarcoma