

## **Washington University in St. Louis**

### **Appropriate Use Criteria**

The Washington University Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) are evidence-based guidelines to assist medical decision making for patients with specific clinical conditions. The AUC are built on an evidence base that considers patient health outcomes, weighing the benefits and harms of alternative care options and are integrated into broader care management and continuous quality improvement (QI) programs. The guidelines are either developed locally by Washington University's experts or adapted from published guidelines to match the specific needs of our patients.

Since feedback and transparency are crucial components of continually improving the AUCs, all AUCs are reviewed annually. In addition, the review process recognizes that patients often develop expertise in key aspects of their care and many patients have become active partners in medical decision making. The review process therefore incorporates public comments into the ongoing evolution of AUCs.

#### **PERSONNEL**

##### **Expertise in multiple disciplines**

Washington University's faculty includes experts in the multiple disciplines required by CMS (below).

- Clinical care
- Medical imaging
- Primary care
- Clinical trial design
- Statistical analysis

Washington University faculty also possess expertise in medical informatics and quality improvement as recommended by CMS.

##### **Governance**

- Washington University's multidisciplinary team will adhere to the CMS requirements for autonomous governance, decision making and accountability for developing, modifying or endorsing AUC.

##### **Conflict of Interest**

- Washington University will adhere to the CMS requirements for conflict of interest processes and disclosures. The conflict of interest and disclosure process not only applies to members of the multidisciplinary team but to other entities participating in the development of AUC. The conflict of interest process will require recusal or exclusion members of the multidisciplinary team where appropriate.

##### **Transparency**

- Washington University will adhere to the CMS requirements for transparency as it applies to personnel involved in developing, modifying or endorsing AUC.

For each of these personnel requirements, Washington University's processes are modeled on those used by the National Quality Forum in its review and endorsement of national quality metrics.