

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.

PROCESSES FOR DEVELOPING, MODIFYING AND ENDORSING AUC

AUCs are evidence based

- Gathering evidence in the form of published reports, systematic reviews and consensus opinions of subject matter experts
- Reviewing evidence, grading it and reporting that assessment

AUCs have stakeholder consensus

Through its large and diverse medical faculty, Washington University has access to a broad base of stakeholders. This provides insights into how existing or proposed AUCs impact different aspects of patient care.

AUCs are scientifically valid

- Washington University's multidisciplinary team will rigorously assess the validity, feasibility and utility of AUCs.

Transparency

- Washington University will adhere to the CMS requirements for transparency as it applies to processes used to develop, modify or endorse AUCs.
- To promote transparency, Washington University will post processes used to develop, modify or endorse AUCS on a public website and invite the public comments.

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