MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT
D-SNP

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Non-Emergency Facility to Facility Transfers-DSNP-MM-1487	IN, GA: 06/01/2023-04/30/2024 OH: 07/01/2023-04/30/2024
Policy Type	
MEDICAL	

Medical Policy Statement prepared by CareSource and its affiliates are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CareSource and its affiliates do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Medica l Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.
According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

This policy applies to the following Marketplace(s):		
☒ **Georgia**	☒ **Indiana**	☒ **Ohio**

Archived

Table of Contents

A. Subject....2
B. Background....2
C. Definitions....2
D. Policy....2
E. Conditions of Coverage....3
F. Related Policies/Rules....3
G. Review/Revision History....3
H. References....4

A. Subject

Non-Emergency Facility to Facility Transfers

B. Background

This policy addresses the necessity of transferring a patient to a second acute care facility (receiving facility) when the individual requires care not available at the current original facility. The goal of any transfer is to maintain the optimal health of the patient. This is accomplished by transferring the patient to the nearest facility which provides the highest specialized care needed.

Inter-hospital patient transfer is an important aspect of patient care, most often to improve patient management. During such transfers, there must be continuity of medical care. Key elements include the decision to transfer and communication, pre-transfer stabilization and preparation, choosing the appropriate mode of transfer, person nel accompanying the patient, equipment and monitoring required during the transfer, and documentation and handover of the patient at the receiving facility.

Transfer, admission and subsequent care to the receiving facility is not medically necessary when the needed care is available at the originating facility.

C. Definitions

- **Non-Emergency** - A situation for which immediate response is not needed for the provision of medical treatment.
- **Inter-Facility Transfer** - The transfer of patients between two healthcare facilities.
- **Intra-Facility Transfer** - The transfer of patients within the same facility.
- **Originating Facility** - The current facility which an individual has been admitted for care and from which a transfer is planned.
- **Participating (In-Network) Facility** - Facility that is contracted with CareSource.
- **Non-Participating (Out-of-Network) Facility** - Facility that is not contracted with CareSource.
- **Receiving Facility** - The facility to which a transfer is planned.

D. Policy

I. This policy applies to the following:
   A. A non-emergency transfer from a participating inpatient facility to a participating inpatient facility that are not within the same healthcare system.
   B. A non-emergency transfer from a non-participating facility to a participating facility.
   C. A non-emergency transfer from a non-participating facility to a non-participating facility.

II. Non-emergency transfers require that the receiving facility submits a prior authorization to CareSource.

III. Requests for transfers that require a prior authorization must meet the following criteria:

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A. Member must be medically stable for transfer; AND
   1. Member requires transfer to a level of care which is not available at the originating facility; or
   2. Member requires transfer for a medically necessary diagnostic or therapeutic service which is not available at the originating facility; or
   3. Member requires transfer for services of a specialist to evaluate, diagnose or treat their condition when that specialist is not available at the originating facility; or
   4. Member requires transfer because member has received care at a specific prior institution for a condition not normally managed at the originating facility and return to that prior institution is needed to diagnose, manage, or treat a complication or other acute issue; or
   5. Member requires transfer to improve the health and welfare of the member (i.e., parental bonding); or
   6. Transfer to allow a parent who gave birth to remain with the neonate is considered medically necessary when the neonate transfer meets the medically necessary criteria listed above and the parent who gave birth requires continued hospitalization due to birth complications or other medically necessary conditions.

IV. The following non-emergency transfers do not require a prior authorization:
   A. Inter-facility transfers within the same healthcare system.
   B. Intra-facility transfers within the same facility.

V. Non-emergency (elective) transfers are not a covered service for the following:
   A. The criteria above have not been met.
   B. The transfer is for the convenience of the member (per state regs, if applicable), the member's family, the physician or the originating facility.

E. Conditions of Coverage
NA

F. Related Policies/Rules
NA

G. Review/Revision History

	DATE	ACTION
Date Issued	03/15/2023	New policy. Approved at Committee.
Date Revised		
Date Effective	IN, GA: 06/01/2023 OH: 07/01/2023	
Date Archived	GA, IN: 04/30/2024 OH: 04/30/2024	This Policy is no longer active and has been archived. Please note that there could be other Policies that may have some of the same rules incorporated and CareSource reserves the right to follow CMS/State/NCCI guidelines without a formal documented Policy

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

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H. References

1. American College of Emergency Physicians. Appropriate interhospital patient transfer. (January 2022). Retrieved on 01/17/2023 from www.acep.org.
2. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM). Obstetric Care Consensus Number 9. Levels of Maternal Care. (August 2019). Retrieved on 01/17/2023 from www.acep.org.
3. EMS Inter-Facility Transport. Joseph Heaton; Melissa D. Kohn. September 26, 2022. National Library of Medicine. Retrieved 01/13/2023 from www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov.
4. Federal Register. § 412.4 Discharges and transfers. Retrieved 01/13/2023 from www.ecfr.gov.
5. Kulshrestha A, Singh J. Inter-hospital and intra-hospital patient transfer: recent concepts. In J Anaesthesia. 2016 Jul; 60(7):451-457. Inter-hospital and intra-hospital patient transfer: Retrieved 01/13/2023 from www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov.

Independent medical review – 02/21/2023

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