

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT Arkansas PASSE

Alkalisas I AGGE				
Policy Name & Number	Date Effective			
Against Medical Advice-AR PASSE-AD-0990	06/01/2025			
Policy Type				
ADMINISTRATIVE				

Administrative 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.

Administrative 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 Administrative Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Administrative 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.

Table of Contents

Α.	Subject	2
	Background	
	Definitions	
	Policy	
	Conditions of Coverage	
	Related Policies/Rules	
	Review/Revision History	
	References	



A. Subject

Against Medical Advice

B. Background

Studies show that approximately 1-2% of all hospitalizations result in discharge against medical advice (AMA). Discharges AMA are at higher risk for inadequately treated medical conditions, readmissions, and negative health outcomes when compared to planned discharges. Documented reasons for leaving AMA may include lack of satisfaction with the treatment team, team members or facility, a general mistrust of medical systems, underutilization of social support, and/or a lack of health insurance or low socio-economic status. Additionally, research indicates that some previously diagnosed conditions substantially impact rates of AMA discharge. Patients with psychiatric conditions, substance abuse disorders, and human immunodeficiency virus are at the most significant risk for an AMA discharge.

C. Definitions

 Against Medical Advice (AMA) – A member chooses to leave the hospital or acute care setting before a practitioner writes the order for discharge. Also known as selfdirected discharge.

D. Policy

- I. CareSource will only pay for services, procedures, and supplies rendered.
- II. The discharge status code on the submitted claim must indicate that the member left AMA.
- III. If a member leaves AMA in the emergency room and the facility has submitted a medical necessity review for inpatient services, only the emergency room will be considered for payment.
- IV. Claims are subject to retrospective review, and CareSource reserves the right to adjust reimbursement in accordance with the policies above.

E. Conditions of Coverage

Member must be eligible at the time the service, procedure or supply was provided, and the service, procedure, or supply must be a covered benefit. Reimbursement is dependent on, but not limited to, submitting approved HCPCS and CPT codes along with appropriate modifiers, if applicable. All services, procedures, and supplies are subject to review for medical necessity, which does not guarantee reimbursement.

F. Related Policies/Rules

Medical Necessity Determinations

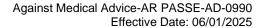


G. Review/Revision History

	DATES	ACTION
Date Issued	12/16/2020	
Date Revised	02/04/2022	Annual review.
	04/12/2023	Annual review. Approved at Committee.
	04/10/2024	Annual review: updated references. Approved at Committee.
	02/26/2025	Annual review: updated references. Approved at Committee.
Date Effective	06/01/2025	
Date Archived		

H. References

- Abuguyan F. Negative outcomes pertaining to patients that leave against medical advice: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci*. 2024;28(5):1976-1986. doi:10.26355/eurrev_202403_35612
- Acquadro-Pacera G, Valente M, Facci G, et al. Exploring the differences in the utilization of the emergency department between migrant and non-migrant populations: a systematic review. *BMC Public Health*. 2024;24(1):963. doi:10.1186/s12889-024-18472-3
- 3. Albayati A, Douedi S, Alshami A, et al. Why do patients leave against medical advice? reasons, consequences, prevention, and interventions. *Healthcare (Basel)*. 2021;9(2):111. doi:10.3390/healthcare9020111
- Alhajeri SS, Atfah IA, Yahya AMB, et al. Leaving against medical advice: current problems and plausible solutions. *Cureus*. 2024;16(7):e64230. doi:10.7759/cureus.64230
- 5. Alper E, O'Malley T, Greenwald J. Hospital discharge and readmission. UpToDate. Updated February 3, 2023. Accessed January 7, 2025. www.uptodate.com
- Gaur A, Gilham E, Machin L, et al. Discharge against medical advice: the causes, consequences and possible corrective measures. *Br J Hosp Med (Lond)*. 2024;85(8):1-14. doi:10.12968/hmed.2024.0231
- 7. Hasan O, Samad MA, Khan H, et al. Leaving against medical advice from in-patients departments rate, reasons and predicting risk factors for re-visiting hospital retrospective cohort from a tertiary care hospital. *Int J Health Policy Manag.* 2019;8(8):474-479. doi:10.15171/ijhpm.2019.26
- 8. Holmes EG, Cooley BS, Fleisch SB, et al. Against medical advice discharge: a narrative review and recommendations for a systematic approach. *Am J Med.* 2021;134(6):721-726. doi:10.1016/j.amimed.2020.12.027
- 9. Hospital Provider Manual. Arkansas Department of Human Services. Accessed January 8, 2025. www.humanservices.arkansas.gov
- 10. Khalili M, Temouri A, Shahramian I, et al. Discharge against medical advice in paediatric patients. *J Taibah Univ Med Sci.* 2019;14(3):262-267. doi:10.1016/j.jtumed.2019.03.001
- 11. Levenson J. Psychological factors affecting other medical conditions: management. UpToDate. Updated July 18, 2024. Accessed January 7, 2025. www.uptodate.com
- 12. Spooner KK, Saunders JJ, Chima CC, et al. Increased risk of 30-day hospital readmission among patients discharged against medical advice: a nationwide analysis. *Ann Epidemiol.* 2020;52:77-85. doi:10.1016/j.annepidem.2020.07.021





13. Tan SY, Feng JY, Joyce C, et al. Association of hospital discharge against medical advice with readmission and in-hospital mortality. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2020;3(6):e206009. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.6009