

Great Rivers Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization

Policy Title:	Practice Guidelines	Policy No. 6012.01
Category:	Clinical	Date Adopted: 05/08/2020 Date Revised: Date Reviewed: 05/23/2023
Reference:	Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) Contracts with Great Rivers Administrative Services Organization; 42 CFR 438.236	

POLICY

- 1.1. Great Rivers Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (Great Rivers BH-ASO) ensures, through its contracts, that each provider contracted within the network adopts and adheres to the clinical practice guidelines approved by Great Rivers ASO's Executive Director and Chief Medical Director.
- 1.2. Great Rivers BH-ASO's clinical practice guidelines are compliant with all state and Federal standards and requirements.
- 1.3. Contracted providers are required to utilize Great Rivers BH-ASO's clinical practice guidelines to inform their direct practice, and as a training and supervision tool for direct clinical staff.
- 1.4. Great Rivers BH-ASO ensures adherence to the clinical practice guideline contract requirement through review of personnel and clinical charts during contract compliance audits.
- 1.5. Decisions for utilization management, enrollee education, coverage of services, and other areas to which the guidelines apply, will be consistent with the guidelines.
- 1.6. Great Rivers BH-ASO's clinical practice guidelines are not intended as a required standard of care. Practice guidelines are utilized to ensure that best practices are used in service delivery, as appropriate, and documented with clinical justification.

PROCEDURES

- 2.1 Clinical Practice Guideline Development
 - 2.1.1 Great Rivers BH-ASO develops clinical practice guidelines through a collaborative process with the internal clinical team and provider network. Great River BH-ASO's Chief Medical Director provides expertise and oversight during the clinical practice guideline selection process.
 - 2.1.1.1 The process begins with the Quality Management (QM) and Utilization/Care Management (UM/CM) teams' analysis of utilization data pertaining to prevalence of diagnoses and types of services utilized in the Great Rivers BH-ASO region. Consideration is also given to populations with intensive or specialized needs across diagnoses,

and available and current (updated within the past five years) practice guidelines.

- 2.1.1.2 Great Rivers BH-ASO's UM/CM Manager gathers the best research available to determine the clinical practice guidelines that most appropriately fit the unique needs of individuals in Great Rivers BH-ASO's regional service area. Practice guidelines are based on valid and reliable clinical evidence and a consensus of health care professionals in behavioral health, such as the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), and/or the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- 2.1.1.3 The potential clinical practice guidelines are presented to the provider network clinical staff, quality management staff, supervisors, managers, and directors. Their feedback is used to complete the practice guidelines.
- 2.1.1.4 After the practice guidelines are approved by the provider network, the guidelines are presented to the Great Rivers BH-ASO Advisory Board for recommendations and feedback.
- 2.1.1.5 The UM/CM Team finalizes the practice guidelines document. The document includes references, such as internet links and journal/book citations to the relevant professional or governmental entities that accepted and published the guidelines
- 2.1.1.6 The practice guidelines document is presented to the Great Rivers BH-ASO's Chief Executive Director (CED) and Chief Medical Director for final approval. Practice guidelines must be approved by the Chief Medical Director before adoption and implementation.

2.2 Clinical Practice Guideline Dissemination and Implementation

- 2.2.1 Great Rivers BH-ASO disseminates the practice guidelines to the provider network upon completion and when updates are made. The guidelines will also be provided to individuals upon request.
- 2.2.2 Great Rivers BH-ASO posts the practice guidelines on the Great Rivers BH-ASO's website.
- 2.2.3 Great Rivers BH-ASO provides initial and ongoing training to providers on the implementation of the practice guidelines. Training is provided during provider network meetings, as well as upon request.

2.3 Clinical Practice Guideline Monitoring

- 2.3.1 Guidelines are reviewed annually by the Great Rivers BH-ASO Quality Management and UM/CM Teams, as well as the provider network, to ensure ongoing compliance with national best-practice standards and contract requirements and to ensure they remain clinically relevant to the region and Great Rivers BH-ASO's lines of service.
- 2.3.2 Provider compliance with Great Rivers BH-ASO's clinical practice guidelines is ensured by inclusion of this requirement in provider contracts, and through

ongoing oversight and monitoring of core elements of each guideline, as appropriate, during utilization reviews and contract audits.

2.3.2.1 Aggregate Data on practice guidelines collected from contract compliance audits will be made available to the provider network at least annually.

ATTACHMENTS:

Practice Guidelines Document

POLICY SIGNATURE

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Trinidad I. Medina
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10/19/2023

Trinidad Medina, Chief Executive Director

Date