

QUALITY POLICY

SUBJECT: Criteria for Consultation or Referral for High-Risk Pregnancies	Effective Date: 01/06
SECTION: Quality	
POLICY NUMBER: QI – XX	
DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED: Quality Management	
<i>Applies to all managed care, POS, and PPO products administered by the Plan except when changed by contract.</i>	

Policy Statement:

Ongoing assessment of both maternal and fetal risk factors throughout the prenatal period should include, but not be limited to, an analysis of individual characteristics affecting pregnancy, such as genetic, nutritional, psychosocial, and historical and emerging obstetrical and medical-surgical risk factors.

The Health Plan disseminates criteria to Plan providers regarding requirements for consultation with a qualified physician or other health care specialists when necessitated by specific medical conditions, and designates those situations requiring transfer of the primary responsibility of from a primary care who is a family practice physician, physician's assistant, licensed midwife or qualified nurse practitioner to professional patient care to a qualified obstetrician.

Procedure:

1. The Health Plan includes consultation and transfer criteria as an accompaniment to Prenatal Guidelines. Criteria are based on risk factors related to medical history and conditions, obstetric history and conditions, and laboratory tests and recommendations are made for:
 - a. Consultation with a qualified physician or other health care specialists when necessitated by specific medical conditions.
 - b. Situations requiring transfer of the primary responsibility of from a primary care who is a family practice physician, physician's assistant, licensed midwife or qualified nurse practitioner to professional patient care to a qualified obstetrician
2. These criteria will be reviewed, and revised if applicable, every two years, as the Prenatal Guidelines are updated.
3. Initially, the Health Plan will make practitioners aware of the referral criteria by placing an article in provider newsletter. Paper copies of the information will be available to practitioners upon request.

Oversight: Oversight of this policy is the responsibility of the management of Quality Management.

Policy Activity: 01/25/06

Committee Approval: Quality Monitoring Committee

Reviewed Dates:

Revised Dates:

Original Source: No Previous Formal Policy