

# CHECKLIST

## Medical Necessity

This checklist may be used during chart review to help you assess whether the services provided meet Medicare standards for medical necessity. It covers Medicare-defined medical necessity standards only and does not cover other Medicare requirements nor take the place of a comprehensive compliance program.

Important Note: This checklist is designed only to help you determine if the services provided meet Medicare standards for Medical Necessity. It does not replace specific guidance from Medicare. Please refer to the Medicare Benefits Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Section 220 for specific guidance on determining whether or not your services are medically necessary. If you need additional support, please contact a healthcare compliance consultant with expertise in outpatient rehabilitation.

\*Maintenance Program standards do not apply in CORFs. Services in CORFs must meet the Rehabilitative Therapy standards.

### EVIDENCE OF SKILLED SERVICES (All elements required)

- Evaluations or Re-Evaluations addressing specific functional problems
- Treatment plan specifically addresses each problem identified in evaluation
- Treatment goals established specific to each problem, disability or dysfunction
- There is a loss of function that would not be expected to improve spontaneously
- Treatment requires skills of therapist
- Procedures are established to obtain goals
- Frequency and intensity of treatment specified
- Continued assessment and analysis at regular intervals
- Meets requirements of rehabilitative therapy or maintenance program detailed below

### ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF SKILLED THERAPY (These elements are not required, but provide additional evidence of skilled therapy)

- Instruction in compensatory skills
- Selection of devices to replace or augment function
- Training of patient and family to augment treatment

### REHABILITATIVE THERAPY (At least 1 of the following 3 required)

- Recovery
- Improvement in function
- Restore previous level of health and well-being if possible

OR

### MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

#### DESIGN\*

- Skill for treatment plan design

#### DELIVERY\* (At least 1 of the following 2 required)

- Complexity and sophistication of therapy procedures
- Skills of therapist to be performed safely

The maintenance program requirements can be supported by either the Design or Delivery requirements.

