(A) Policy Statement

Resource Utilization Coordinators are responsible for collection of clinical information. This information is used to determine medical necessity for admission and continued stay hospitalization based on InterQual criteria. Practitioners involved in the patient’s plan of care are consulted if the admission or continued stay is questioned as to medical necessity. If the questions are not answered appropriately, the Physician Advisor will be contacted.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To devise a mean to contact the Physician Advisor/Executive Health Resources to assist with cases that may require a physician’s expert opinion. This is utilized in all cases which need further assistance and when all other opportunities have been exhausted.

(C) Procedure

1. The Resource Utilization Coordinators (RUC’s)/Lead RUC review charts upon admission and concurrently to assure appropriate admission or continued stay status according to InterQual (IQ) criteria.

2. The RUC’s/Lead RUC identify patients that lack medical necessity, have clinical care issues and/or issues that warrant physician intervention.

3. The RUC’s/Lead RUC communicate with the attending or consulting physician to gather information regarding patient stays that lack medical necessity, have clinical care issues and/or issues that warrant physician intervention.

4. If attempts to communicate with the attending and/or consulting physician are unsuccessful, or the information gathered still does not meet IQ criteria, then a referral is made to the Physician Advisor/Executive Health Resources.

5. The Physician Advisor/Executive Health Resources will then review the documentation/patient information and advise as necessary. The Physician Advisor/Executive Health Resources will contact the RUC/Lead RUC to communicate the outcome.

6. The referral to the Physician Advisor/Executive Health Resources is documented on the Allscripts Documentation Software.

7. 

8. All referrals to the Physician Advisor are reported to the Director of Outcome Management.

9. In the event that the Physician Advisor is needed and is not available, the Chief of Staff will be notified.
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**Physician Advisor Referral Process**

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<tr>
<th>Approved by:</th>
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Director of Nursing/Chief Nursing Officer | 6/2/2008 |
| Angela Ackerman, RN  
Director of Outcome Management | 3/3/2010 |
|  | 4/11 |
|  | 6/15 |

**Next Review Date:** 6/2018

**Policies Superseded by This Policy:**