



Conducting a review using LOCUS™ Navigator

Follow the steps below to conduct a review using LOCUS Navigator¹ criteria for the following clinical scenario.

Max is a 22-year-old non-binary individual who uses they/them pronouns. They were brought in by their significant other due to worsening depression over the past 3 months, marked by sadness, sluggishness, apathy, and increased irritability toward friends and family. Max denies current suicidal or homicidal ideation but reports occasional passive thoughts of not wanting to be alive. They are unsure about treatment, though they recognize their mood may worsen without help.

Max attended outpatient therapy about a year ago but stopped after 2 months because they did not feel connected to the therapist. They have not independently pursued further treatment and have no history of psychiatric hospitalization, psychotropic medication use, or suicide attempts.

Max denies major health problems, sees a primary care physician regularly, takes hormones as prescribed, and reports occasional marijuana use and very infrequent heavy social drinking without escalation.

Max lives with their significant other and another couple in a small apartment with intermittent conflict. They describe their mother, stepfather, and significant other as supportive. Max works as a food delivery driver and has reduced their hours but is still able to do the job adequately.

Selecting a subset

1. Select BH: LOCUS™ Navigator from the Product menu.
2. Select LOCUS 20: Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services subset.

Select Subset
Refine search with Product, Version, Category, Keywords or Medical Codes

Product
Version
Category
Keyword Search
Code Search

BH:LOCUS™ Navigator

2026

All Categories

Enter Keywords

Enter Medical Codes

Find Subsets

Clear All

Bookmarks

Clinical Reference

Results Count: 1

Subset 1 ↑	Product	Version 2 ↓
LOCUS 20: Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services	BH:LOCUS™ Navigator	InterQual 2026

The subset notes appear.

¹ © LOCUS Software 1997-2026, Deerfield Solutions, LLC. All Rights Reserved. The American Association for Community Psychiatry (A.A.C.P.) granted Deerfield Solutions, LLC permission to use, publish, or reprint LOCUS for the purpose of developing the LOCUS Software. © LOCUS, 1996-2026, American Association for Community Psychiatry.

3. View the subset notes to get details about the subset.
The Clinical Reference provides helpful resources to assist with conducting reviews. The Review Process is particularly important as it provides comprehensive guidelines for using the criteria.
4. To view a clinical reference resource, select [Clinical Reference](#) and then select the resource. We'll begin the review.
5. Click [Begin Medical Review](#).

Subset Overview

Refine search with Product, Version, Category, Keywords or Medical Codes

Product

Version

Category

Keyword Search

Code Search

BH:LOCUS™ Navigator

2026

All Categories

Enter Keywords

Enter Medical Codes

[Find Subsets](#)
[Clear All](#)
[Bookmarks](#)
[Clinical Reference](#)

Subset Notes

InterQual® 2026, Mar. 2026 Release, BH:LOCUS™ Navigator
LOCUS 20: Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services

[InterQual® Community](#)
[Review Process \(PDF\)](#)

Informational Note

The LOCUS™ Navigator supports reliable determination of service needs and intensity for appropriate placement in the continuum of care for psychiatric and addiction services. It was developed for use for adults 18 years of age and older.

Content and notes referenced from: LOCUS® Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services
Adult Version 20

[Begin Medical Review](#)
[Book View](#)
[Bookmark Subset](#)
[Change Subset](#)

Evaluating criteria

As you conduct a review, criteria are presented in an interactive question-and-answer (Q&A) multiple choice format.

As the review questions appear, you should answer them according to the clinical scenario. Answers must reflect the patient's current presentation, and if any detail is missing, unclear, or conflicting, you should use clinical judgment and apply the rating that best fits the situation. If uncertainty remains, you should err on the side of caution and select the highest score that is more likely than not to apply.

The review questions assess 6 LOCUS dimensions: Risk of Harm, Functional Status, Medical, Addictive, and Psychiatric Co-Morbidity, Recovery Environment, Treatment and Recovery History, and Engagement and Recovery Status.

The first question is the requested level of care. The level of care selected in this question is not considered as part of the scoring of the LOCUS 20 assessment. It supports criteria met determination at the conclusion of the review. If the request does not specify a level of care, select the "Level of care not specified" option.

1. Select "Level of care not specified" as no level of care is specified in our scenario.

Next, we'll evaluate Max's current presentation across the 6 dimensions. For details on each dimension and scoring guidance, refer to the dimension overview notes (.

2. Answer the questions in each dimension based on information in the scenario. Select all criteria that apply to the case. Click Next to move from one dimension to the next.

Dimension	Scenario information	Select answer based on the scenario:
Risk of Harm	Max has had some passive suicidal ideation at times, but no current thoughts or extreme distress.	Low Risk of Harm (2): No current suicidal or homicidal ideation, plan, intentions or severe distress, but may have had transient or passive thoughts recently or in the past
Functional Status	Max has had some irritability causing some interpersonal conflict, but without significant disruption of meaningful relationships. Although they have maintained their job, it has been a bit of a struggle.	- Mild Impairment (2): Experiencing some problems in interpersonal interactions, with increased irritability, hostility or conflict, but is able to maintain some meaningful and satisfying relationships and - Mild Impairment (2): Developing minor but consistent difficulties in social role functioning and meeting obligations such as difficulty fulfilling parental responsibilities or performing at expected level in work or school, but maintaining ability to continue in those roles
Co-Morbidity	Max's mental health is the presenting condition. Although they use substances occasionally, there is no pattern of escalation or impact on mental health.	Minor Co-morbidity (2): Occasional episodes of substance misuse, but any recent episodes are self-limited, show no pattern of escalation, and there is no indication that they adversely affect the course of a co-occurring psychiatric disorder
Recovery Environment - Level of Stress and - Level of Support	- Level of Stress: Max has some interpersonal conflict causing some minor stress - Level of Support: Max has good support from family and their significant other and both could provide help if needed	- Mildly Stressful Environment (2): Presence of some ongoing or intermittent interpersonal conflict, alienation, or other difficulties and - Mildly Stressful Environment (2): Circumstances causing some distress such as a close friend leaving town, conflict in or near current residence, or concern about maintaining material well being - Supportive Environment (2): Supportive resources are not abundant but are capable of and

Dimension	Scenario information	Select answer based on the scenario:
		willing to provide significant aid in times of need
Treatment and Recovery History	Max has limited treatment history, and prior treatment hasn't been very successful or entered with significant motivation. They have never been exposed to intensive treatment	Moderate or Equivocal Response to Treatment and Recovery Management (3): Previous treatment exposures have been marked by minimal effort or motivation, and no significant success or recovery period was achieved
Engagement and Recovery Status	Max is hesitant about receiving care and would not have accessed care independently if it were not for the encouragement of others.	- Limited Engagement and Recovery (3): Has some variability, hesitation or uncertainty in acceptance or understanding of illness and disability and - Limited Engagement and Recovery (3): Does not use available resources independently or only in cases of extreme need

Medical Review LOCUS 20: Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services
 [Change Subset](#)
[Clinical Reference](#)
[Comments 0](#)

v Requested level of care, Choose one: Required

☐ Level of care not specified

v Risk of Harm [≥ One] Required

☒ **Low Risk of Harm (2):** No current suicidal or homicidal ideation, plan, intentions or severe distress, but may have had transient or passive thoughts recently or in the past.

v Functional Status [≥ One] Required

☒ **Mild Impairment (2):** Experiencing some problems in interpersonal interactions, with increased irritability, hostility or conflict, but is able to maintain some meaningful and satisfying relationships.

☒ **Mild Impairment (2):** Developing minor but consistent difficulties in social role functioning and meeting obligations such as difficulty fulfilling parental responsibilities or performing at expected level in work or school, but maintaining ability to continue in those roles.

v Medical, Addictive and Psychiatric Co-Morbidity [≥ One] Required

☒ **Minor Co-morbidity (2):** Occasional episodes of substance misuse, but any recent episodes are self-limited, show no pattern of escalation, and there is no indication that they adversely affect the course of a co-occurring psychiatric disorder.

Multiple Choice: Scroll down to view all answers, choose one or more answers, and then click Next to continue.

[Previous](#)
[Save For Later](#)
[View Recommendations](#)

As you complete the review, you can perform any of the following tasks, as appropriate:

- **Provide additional information by adding a reviewer comment.** To do this, select the appropriate comments icon  and enter comments in the Reviewer Comments dialog. The appearance of the icon changes to indicate the comment.
- **Change your selections for a dimension.** Changing your selection(s) will remove any subsequent selections you made, so you will need to make those selections again.

Once you have finished evaluating and making selections in each of the dimensions, the View Recommendations button is enabled.

3. Click .

Medical Review LOCUS 20: Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services
 [Change Subset](#)
[Clinical Reference](#)
[Comments 0](#)

Medical, Addictive and Psychiatric Co-Morbidity ≥ One Required 

☒ **Minor Co-morbidity (2):** Occasional episodes of substance misuse, but any recent episodes are self-limited, show no pattern of escalation, and there is no indication that they adversely affect the course of a co-occurring psychiatric disorder.

Recovery Environment (Level of Stress) ≥ One Required 

☒ **Mildly Stressful Environment (2):** Presence of some ongoing or intermittent interpersonal conflict, alienation, or other difficulties.

☒ **Mildly Stressful Environment (2):** Circumstances causing some distress such as a close friend leaving town, conflict in or near current residence, or concern about maintaining material well being.

Recovery Environment (Level of Support) ≥ One Required 

☒ **Supportive Environment (2):** Supportive resources are not abundant, but are capable of and willing to provide significant aid in times of need.

Treatment and Recovery History ≥ One Required 

☒ **Moderate or Equivocal Response to Treatment and Recovery Management (3):** Previous treatment exposures have been marked by minimal effort or motivation and no significant success or recovery period was achieved.

Engagement and Recovery Status ≥ One Required 

☒ **Limited Engagement and Recovery (3):** Has some variability, hesitation or uncertainty in acceptance or understanding of illness and disability.

No remaining questions. Click View Recommendations to continue.

[Previous](#)
[Save For Later](#)
[View Recommendations](#)

4. Review and select the checkbox for a recommendation to authorize the appropriate service(s).

Recommendations

Recommended Evidence supports services as medically necessary

☒ **LEVEL TWO - Low Intensity Community Based Services** - Composite Score: 16 

[Previous](#)
[Save For Later](#)
[Complete](#)
[Review Summary](#)

Following are important considerations:

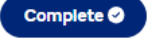
- A recommendation is made for a specific level of care or service intensity that aligns with the clinical criteria identified during assessment.
- If the **level of care selected in Question 1** does not match the **recommended level of care** based on the criteria, the **criteria status** will be recorded as “**criteria not met.**”

After scores are assigned across the 6 dimensions, they are summed to calculate the composite score. In some cases, independent criteria in dimensions I, II, and, III may indicate placement at Level 5 or 6 regardless of the composite score.

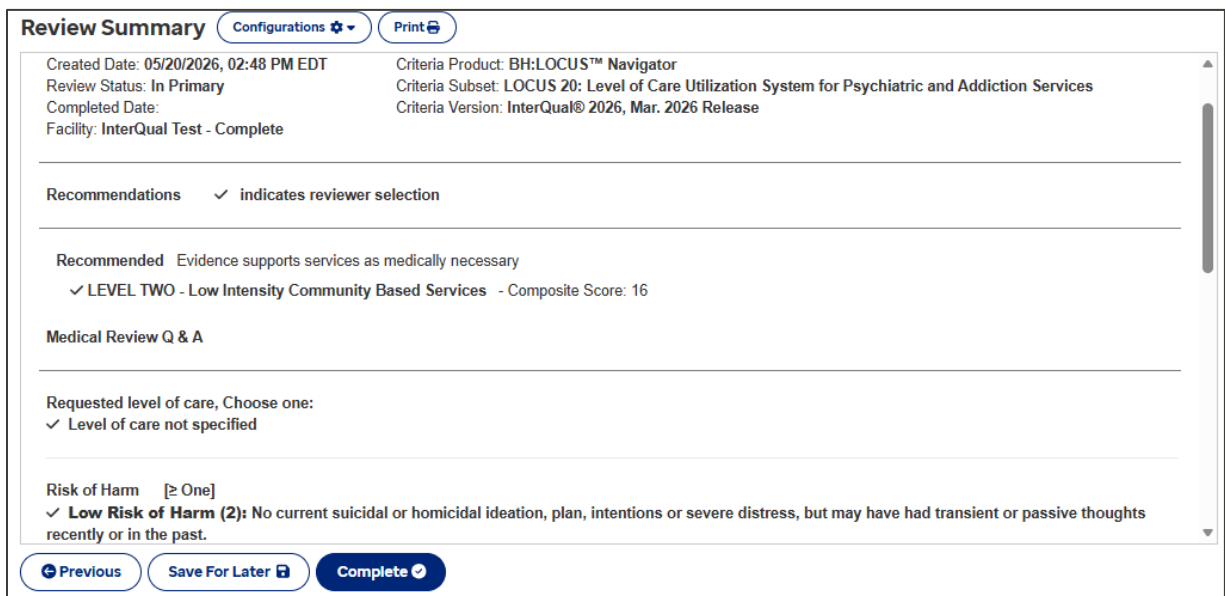
5. Click .

Viewing the Review Summary

The Review Summary shows the review details, including who created the review and when they created it, the criteria status, the questions and answers, and any reviewer comments.

1. Click Print to get a PDF of the Review Summary. The Configurations button has options that enable you to customize the Review Summary, such as showing only the selected answers or including the InterQual notes in the PDF.
2. Click  to save the review so you can edit and complete it later.
3. Click  to finish the review workflow. If you select this option, a warning message letting you know that the review will be blocked from further edits appears. Click Complete Review in the warning message to confirm you want to complete the review.

The review is marked as complete with the date and time. If you select Previous, you can view the selections you made, but you cannot make any edits.



Review Summary  

Created Date: 05/20/2026, 02:48 PM EDT
 Review Status: In Primary
 Completed Date:
 Facility: InterQual Test - Complete

Criteria Product: BH:LOCUS™ Navigator
 Criteria Subset: LOCUS 20: Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services
 Criteria Version: InterQual® 2026, Mar. 2026 Release

Recommendations ☒ indicates reviewer selection

Recommended Evidence supports services as medically necessary
☒ **LEVEL TWO - Low Intensity Community Based Services** - Composite Score: 16

Medical Review Q & A

Requested level of care, Choose one:
☒ Level of care not specified

Risk of Harm [≥ One]
☒ **Low Risk of Harm (2):** No current suicidal or homicidal ideation, plan, intentions or severe distress, but may have had transient or passive thoughts recently or in the past.