

InterQual®: Conduct a Nested Decision Tree Review

Follow the steps in the example below to conduct a Nested Decision Tree (NDT) review. In this example we'll conduct a review using Acute Adult criteria, COPD subset. At any point, click the Help button in the application for information on all features and functions and to access tutorials that demonstrate how to conduct a medical review.



Selecting a Subset

1. Click PRODUCT and then select LOC: Acute Adult from the list.

The InterQual content list is enabled and defaults to the most recent version. If you have access to criteria from multiple years, you can select a different version. The most recent version is automatically selected.

2. Optionally, select a different version by clicking the list and selecting the version you want. The steps for conducting a review are the same, regardless of the content version you use.

Criteria products are organized by category. We'll select the Medical category.

3. Click CATEGORY and select Medical from the list.

A list of subsets associated with the selected product, version, and category is displayed. The subset we will focus on is COPD.

You could scroll down the list to find it; however, there are other ways to find subsets. You can find subsets by entering keywords or medical codes. You can search by the subset name. You can also bookmark your most frequently used subsets. We'll search by the keyword "COPD".

4. Enter the keyword "COPD".
5. Click FIND SUBSETS.
6. Select COPD from the subset list.

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

LOC:ACUTE ADULT **1** 2023 **2** MEDICAL **3** **CLINICAL REFERENCE**

COPD **4** Enter Medical Codes **FIND SUBSETS** **5** CLEAR ALL BOOKMARKS **6**

Results Count: 2

Subset 1 ↑	Product	Version 2 ↓
COPD 6	LOC:Acute Adult	InterQual 2023

7. View the subset note (with references and hyperlinks) to get details about the subset.
8. To view a clinical reference document, click **CLINICAL REFERENCE** and then click a document name. The Clinical Reference is available any time after you select a product and version and provides helpful resources (in PDF format) to assist with conducting reviews.

Note: You can also access select Clinical Reference resources (for example, the Review Process) directly from the Subset Notes screen.

9. Click **SHOW CODES** to view medical codes (for example, ICD codes) that are mapped to the condition-specific subset.
10. You can perform the following tasks from the bottom toolbar:

BEGIN MEDICAL REVIEW -- Begin a medical review.

BOOK VIEW --View criteria using Book View.

PRINT FULL SUBSET --Print the full subset.

BOOKMARK SUBSET -- Bookmark the subset (if you expect to use it frequently).

CHANGE SUBSET -- Change the subset.

In this example, we'll begin a medical review with the COPD subset.

11. Click BEGIN MEDICAL REVIEW.

The screenshot displays the 'Subset Overview' page. At the top, there are search filters for 'LOC:ACUTE ADULT', '2023', and 'MEDICAL'. A 'CLINICAL REFERENCE' button with a count of 8 is visible. Below these are input fields for 'COPD' and 'Enter Medical Codes', along with 'FIND SUBSETS', 'CLEAR ALL', and 'BOOKMARKS' buttons. The 'Subset Notes' section shows a note titled 'InterQual® 2023, Mar. 2023 Release, LOC:Acute Adult COPD' with a 'SHOW CODES' button (9). The note content includes an introduction to COPD and a list of stages, with 'GOLD 1 Mild: FEV₁ ≥ 80% predicted' highlighted. At the bottom, a toolbar contains buttons for 'BEGIN MEDICAL REVIEW' (11), 'BOOK VIEW', 'PRINT FULL SUBSET', 'BOOKMARK SUBSET', and 'CHANGE SUBSET' (10). A 'Privacy Notice' link is located in the bottom right corner.

Evaluating Criteria

Acute Criteria are organized in a decision-tree format where top-level criteria have one or more levels of underlying criteria. You expand a section of the decision tree by clicking a plus (+) sign and collapse it by clicking a minus (-) sign.



Before you evaluate criteria, you can optionally select a utilization benchmark. Utilization benchmark information provides guidance around a typical length of stay for a condition and may show the percentage of patients ultimately paid for at the Observation status.

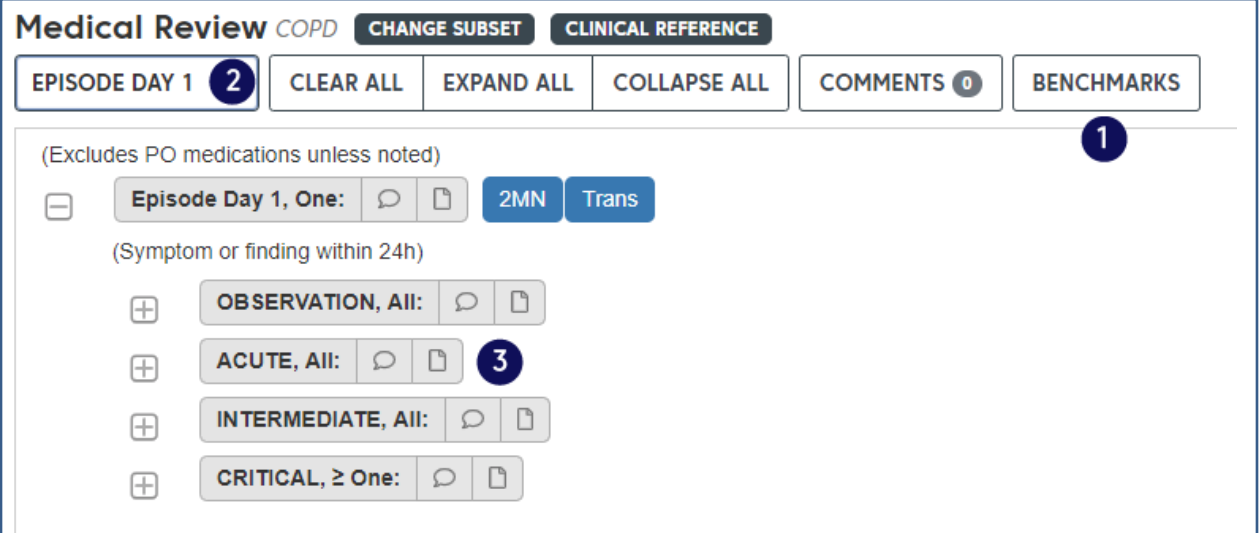
1. Click BENCHMARKS and then select the applicable benchmark use for your organization, for example, COPD InterQual 3,4-day LOS. Alternately, you can select the applicable CMS GMLOS.
2. Select EPISODE DAY 1 for admission.

Next, select a level of care based on the patient's current or proposed level of care.

3. Expand ACUTE, All:

As you answer questions, you can do the following, as appropriate:




- Read the notes . Notes provide clinical information, definitions, and citations.
- Provide additional information by adding a reviewer comment . To do this, you click the appropriate comments icon and enter comments in the Reviewer Comments dialog box. The appearance of the icon changes to indicate the comment.
- Return to the previous screen by clicking Previous. Your criteria selections are saved.






Medical Review COPD **CHANGE SUBSET** **CLINICAL REFERENCE**




EPISODE DAY 1 **2** CLEAR ALL EXPAND ALL COLLAPSE ALL COMMENTS 0 BENCHMARKS **1**




(Excludes PO medications unless noted)




 Episode Day 1, One:   2MN Trans

(Symptom or finding within 24h)

 OBSERVATION, All:  

 ACUTE, All:   **3**

 INTERMEDIATE, All:  

 CRITICAL, ≥ One:  

Condition or Procedure ↑	% Pd Obs	LOS (days)	Type
190 CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE WITH MCC	n/a	3.4	CMS GMLOS
191 CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE WITH CC	n/a	2.7	CMS GMLOS
192 CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE WITHOUT CC/MCC	n/a	2.2	CMS GMLOS
COPD 1	29	3.4	InterQual

- Select Short-acting beta-agonist administered prior to admission by licensed medical professional ≥ 2 doses.
- Expand Post treatment finding, \geq **One**: and then select O₂ sat $\leq 89\%$ (0.89) and $<$ baseline.

Medical Review COPD **CHANGE SUBSET** **CLINICAL REFERENCE**

EPISODE DAY 1 **CLEAR ALL** **EXPAND ALL** **COLLAPSE ALL** **COMMENTS 0** **INTERQUAL LOS 3.4 D** **COPD**

(Excludes PO medications unless noted)

Episode Day 1, One: 2MN Trans

(Symptom or finding within 24h)

OBSERVATION, All:

ACUTE, All:

✓ Short-acting beta-agonist administered prior to admission by licensed medical professional ≥ 2 doses **4**

✓ Post treatment finding, \geq **One**:

✓ O₂ Sat $\leq 89\%$ (0.89) and $<$ baseline **5**

Arterial Po₂ 40-55 mmHg(5.3-7.3 kPa) and pH 7.45-7.49

- Expand Intervention, **Both**: and then select Bronchodilator $\geq 4x/24h$ (includes inhaled).
- Select Corticosteroid (includes PO or inhaled). If the InterQual® Transition Plan note appears, read it and then click OK.
- View that the criteria status changed from Criteria Not Met to ACUTE MET. Medical necessity has been supported for Episode Day 1.
- Open the Care Management Information notes.

Medical Review *COPD* **CHANGE SUBSET** **CLINICAL REFERENCE** **8** **ACUTE MET**

EPISODE DAY 1 **CLEAR ALL** **EXPAND ALL** **COLLAPSE ALL** **COMMENTS 0** **INTERQUAL LOS 3.4 D** *COPD*

(Excludes PO medications unless noted)

Episode Day 1, One: **2MN** **Trans**

(Symptom or finding within 24h)

OBSERVATION, All:

ACUTE, All:

Short-acting beta-agonist administered prior to admission by licensed medical professional ≥ 2 doses

Post treatment finding, \geq One:

Intervention, Both: **Care**

Bronchodilator $\geq 4x/24h$ (includes inhaled) **6**

Corticosteroid (includes PO) **Care** **7**

INTERMEDIATE, All:

CRITICAL, \geq One:

PREVIOUS **DECISION REASONS** **MEDICAL REVIEW COMPLETED** **Privacy Notice**

CARE MANAGEMENT **9**

The Care Management notes show admission considerations, expected progress, and care facilitation or discharge planning and Social Determinants of Health.

10. Close the notes by clicking CARE MANAGEMENT when you finish viewing them.

ADMISSION CONSIDERATIONS **EXPECTED PROGRESS** **CARE FACILITATION**

CARE MANAGEMENT

COPD: Admission considerations

Prior to initiating a review, obtain documentation of the following information in order to apply the criteria or provide additional information for a possible secondary review:

Clinical findings following at least 2 doses of a short-acting beta-agonist, including:

- Work of breathing
- O₂ saturation
- Arterial or venous Po₂
- Arterial or venous Pco₂

Any active comorbid conditions or risk factors that may impact the decision to admit, such as:

- Age
- Blood urea nitrogen level

Viewing the Review Summary

Display the Review Summary by clicking MEDICAL REVIEW COMPLETED.

1. View who created the review and when as well as the facility.
2. View the criteria status, the product, subset, and version.
3. View utilization benchmark information.
4. View any reviewer comments.
5. View the criteria selected in this review.
6. Print the Review Summary in PDF format. The Settings button contains options that enable you to customize the review, such as including the InterQual notes in the PDF.
7. Click COPY AS ... to copy the review summary details from the review to your computer's Clipboard and paste it to your system. You can choose to copy the review information as Text or XML.
8. Click **CLOSE REVIEW/NEW REVIEW** to close the medical review. You will see a warning that closing or starting a new review will clear the current medical review. Click OK in the warning message to close and finish the review.

Review Summary

SETTINGS PRINT COPY AS ...

6 7

InterQual® Review Summary

Created By: **Barrister, Karl**
 Created Date: **02/24/2023, 10:33 AM EST** 1
 Facility: **InterQual and MPRM QA**

Criteria Status: **Acute Met**
 Criteria Product: **LOC:Acute Adult** 2
 Criteria Subset: **COPD**
 Criteria Version: **InterQual® 2023, Mar. 2023 Release**

Utilization Benchmarks

Length of Stay: **3.4 d**
 Length of Stay Type: **InterQual**
 Condition/Procedure: **COPD** 3
 % Paid as Observation: **29%**

Percent Paid as Observation indicates the final payment status as a percentage for patients hospitalized with the condition. It may not correspond to the status assigned at admission. Note that patients initially placed in Observation status who are converted to inpatient status (common) are included in the inpatient category, and that patients initially admitted to inpatient status who are converted to observation status (uncommon) are included in the Observation category.

Reviewer Comment: Barrister, Karl on 02/24/2023, 10:34 AM EST 4

Add clinical comments

✓ **Select Day, One:**

Initial review, One: 5

✓ **Episode Day 1, One:**

OBSERVATION, All:

✓ **ACUTE All:** 8

PREVIOUS

CLOSE REVIEW/NEW REVIEW

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