

InterQual®: Conducting a Q&A review

Follow the steps in the example below to conduct a Q&A review. In this example we'll conduct a review using Procedures criteria, Total Joint Replacement (TJR) Hip subset. At any point, select 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. Select PRODUCT and then select CP: Procedures.

The InterQual content version is enabled. 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 content version. 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 Orthopedic – Lower Extremity category.

3. Select CATEGORY and then select ORTHOPEDIC – LOWER EXTREMITY from the list.

A list of subsets associated with the selected product, version, and category is displayed. The subset we will focus on is Total Joint Replacement (TJR) Hip.

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 "joint replacement".

4. Enter the keyword: joint replacement.
5. Select FIND SUBSETS.
6. Select Total Joint Replacement (TJR) Hip from the subset list.

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

CP:PROCEDURES ① 2025 ② ORTHOPEDIC - LOWER EXTREMITY ③ CLINICAL REFERENCE

joint replacement ④ Enter Medical Codes FIND SUBSETS ⑤ CLEAR ALL BOOKMARKS ▾

Results Count: 5

Subset 1 ↑	Product	Version 2 ↓
Removal and Replacement, Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip	CP:Procedures	InterQual 2025
Removal and Replacement, Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Knee	CP:Procedures	InterQual 2025
Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Ankle	CP:Procedures	InterQual 2025
Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip ⑥	CP:Procedures	InterQual 2025
Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Knee	CP:Procedures	InterQual 2025

- View the subset note (with references and hyperlinks) to get details about the subset.
- To view a clinical reference resource, select **CLINICAL REFERENCE** and then select a resource. The Clinical Reference is available at any time after you select a product and version and provides helpful resources 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.

- Select **SHOW CODES** to view medical codes (for example, CPT® or ICD codes) that are mapped to the subset.

From here, you can perform the following tasks by selecting an option from the bottom toolbar:

BEGIN MEDICAL REVIEW ➔	Begin a medical review
BOOK VIEW 📖	View criteria using Book View
FULL SUBSET	View the full subset
SMARTSHEETS	Generate SmartSheets
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 Total Joint Replacement (TJR) Hip subset.

- Select BEGIN MEDICAL REVIEW.

The screenshot displays the 'Subset Overview' page. At the top, there are search filters for Product (CP:Procedures), Version (2025), and Category (Clinical Reference). Below these are input fields for 'Total joint replacement' and 'Enter Medical Codes', along with 'Find Subsets', 'Clear All', and 'Bookmarks' buttons. The 'Subset Notes' section shows a note for 'InterQual® 2025, Mar. 2025 Release, CP:Procedures Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip'. It includes a 'Show Codes' button (9) and a 'Review Process (PDF)' button (7). An 'Informational Note' describes the criteria, mentioning 'Arthroplasty, Total, Hip'. A circled '10' highlights the text 'Arthroplasty' in the note. At the bottom, a toolbar contains buttons for 'BEGIN MEDICAL REVIEW' (highlighted), 'Book View', 'Full Subset', 'SmartSheets', 'Bookmark Subset', and 'Change Subset'. A 'Privacy Notice' link is also present.



Evaluating criteria

Criteria are presented in an interactive question and answer (Q&A) format. As you conduct a review, your answers to questions about the patient's clinical presentation will lead you to the most appropriate recommendation(s) for that clinical scenario.


Questions about symptoms and findings, imaging or testing results, or conservative treatment are presented in a Yes/No, Choose One, or multiple-choice formats. The rules shown in the multiple-choice questions indicate how many items must be selected to fulfill the rule.


1. Answer the questions as they appear. To follow the example, select the following:
 - a. Select Age \geq 18.
 - b. Select Osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis.
 - c. Select Pain increased with initiation of activity **and** pain increased with weight bearing.
 - d. Select NEXT.
 - e. Select Limited ROM **and** Antalgic gait.
 - f. Select NEXT.
 - g. Select Yes for Bone-on-bone contact by imaging.
 - h. Select No for Active infection.


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 select the appropriate comments icon and enter comments in the Reviewer Comments dialog. The appearance of the icon changes to indicate the comment.
- Return to the previous screen by selecting PREVIOUS. Your criteria selections are saved.

Medical Review Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip CHANGE SUBSET CLINICAL REFERENCE


COMMENTS 

Choose one: Required  

Age \geq 18 


Age < 18

Choose one: Required 


Osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis  1

Avascular necrosis (osteonecrosis), femoral head 



Nonunion or malunion, articular fracture 

Rheumatoid arthritis 

Bone tumor involving hip by imaging 

Acute hip fracture by imaging 

None of the above

PREVIOUS
SAVE REVIEW 
VIEW RECOMMENDATIONS 

When you have answered all the required questions, the View Recommendations button is enabled.

2. Select VIEW RECOMMENDATIONS to continue.

Medical Review Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip CHANGE SUBSET CLINICAL REFERENCE

COMMENTS

Other clinical information (add comment)

Choose all that apply: [All except Other clinical information (add comment)] Required

- Limited ROM
- Antalgic gait

Or (Selecting an answer that differs will clear other selections)

Other clinical information (add comment)

Bones on bone contact by imaging Required

- Yes
- No

Active infection Required

- Yes
- No

PREVIOUS SAVE REVIEW **VIEW RECOMMENDATIONS** Privacy Notice

If there is a recommended procedure, it appears on the Recommendations screen after you answer the questions in a particular pathway (meeting criteria) and is based on the best available medical evidence. You can view and select a recommended procedure as allowed by the rules operating behind the scenes.

The types of recommendations vary by criteria product (one recommendation, more than one recommendation, mutually recommended, mutually exclusive, and so on). Consult the Review Process (available from a link on the Subset Overview screen) for all the possible types of recommendations.

3. Select the procedure Total Joint Replacement (TJR) Hip.

The medical codes (for example, ICD and CPT) associated with the procedure appear. Selecting requested CPT codes will help determine the supported setting for procedures criteria. (See [About Site of Service](#) for more details.)

We'll select CPT codes.

4. Select the CPT code tab and then select the two CPT codes. Notice that the recommended setting for this procedure based on your CPT code selections is No Setting Determined.

5. Select REVIEW SUMMARY.

Recommendations Benchmarks

Recommended Evidence supports services as medically necessary.

Setting: No Setting Determined Source: InterQual CMS Age: <18 ≥18

Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip Hide codes

Selected 2 ICD-10-CM ICD-10-PCS **CPT** HCPCS

Results Count: 2 CPT® only © 2011-2024 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved.

Code ↑	Description	Setting ⓘ
27130	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARTHROPLASTY, ACETABULAR AND PROXIMAL FEMORAL PROSTHETIC REPLACEMENT (...)	Outpatient
27132	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONVERSION OF PREVIOUS HIP SURGERY TO TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY, WITH OR WIT...	No Setting Determined

No Unavailable Recommendations

Previous Save Review Complete Review Outcome **Review Summary** Privacy Notice

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 setting for a procedure, the medical review questions and answers, and any reviewer comments.

1. Print the Review Summary in PDF format. The Settings button has options that enable you to customize the review, such as including the InterQual notes in the PDF.
2. Select SAVE REVIEW to save the review so you can edit and complete it later.
3. Select COMPLETE to finish the review workflow. If you choose this option, a warning message letting you know that the review will be blocked from further edits appears.

Select Yes 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
Configurations
Print

InterQual® Review Summary

<p>Created By: Walsh, Margaret Created Date: 03/13/2025, 07:17 PM EDT Review Status: In Primary Completed Date: Facility: InterQual Demo</p>	<p>Criteria Status: Criteria Met Setting: No Setting Determined Criteria Product: CP:Procedures Criteria Subset: Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip Criteria Version: InterQual® 2025, Mar. 2025 Release</p>
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Utilization Benchmarks

Length of Stay: None selected

Recommendations ✓ indicates reviewer selection

RECOMMENDED *Evidence supports services as medically necessary.*

- ✓ Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Hip
 - ✓ CPT 27130 ARTHROPLASTY, ACETABULAR AND PROXIMAL FEMORAL PROSTHETIC REPLACEMENT (TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY), WITH OR WITHOUT AUTOGRAFT OR ALLOGRAFT
 Benchmark Setting: Outpatient, Source: InterQual, ≥ 18
 Outpatient Setting: :
 - ✓ CPT 27132 CONVERSION OF PREVIOUS HIP SURGERY TO TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY, WITH OR WITHOUT AUTOGRAFT OR ALLOGRAFT
 Benchmark Setting: No Setting Determined, Source: InterQual, ≥ 18
 No Setting Determined:

Previous
Save Review
Complete
Privacy Notice

About Site of Service

Criteria include InterQual and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) supported settings based on CPT codes. InterQual settings are determined using aggregate claims data at a 75% threshold.

- **Inpatient:** Procedures most commonly performed in an acute care setting, requiring hospital admission (usually 24 hours or more).
- **Outpatient:** Procedures performed in a physician's office, an ambulatory care setting, or a hospital outpatient setting, not requiring hospital admission (usually less than 24 hours).

If claims data for a given code do not meet the 75% threshold for either inpatient or outpatient, "No setting determined" is displayed. In cases where data meet the threshold, but the volume of data are not statistically significant, a limited data (LTD) flag is displayed. CMS settings are based on publicly available data from CMS.

Selecting codes

You select the source of the setting data (InterQual or CMS) based on the review being conducted.

The InterQual or CMS-supported setting is determined as follows:

- If the setting for all CPT codes associated with a recommendation is the same, the setting is displayed under the Recommendation header. The reviewer does not need to select CPT codes to determine the setting.
- If the setting varies by CPT code, the reviewer must select all CPT codes associated with the medical review to determine the setting.
- If more than one recommendation is available, the reviewer should select all appropriate recommendations and CPT codes to determine the setting.
- When the reviewer selects multiple CPT codes, the setting is based on the following criteria:

InterQual	CMS
If any code has a value of Inpatient , the setting is Inpatient .	If any code has a value of CMS Inpatient Only , the setting is CMS Inpatient Only .
If all codes have a value of Outpatient , the setting is Outpatient .	If any code has a value of CMS ASC excluded and no code has a value of CMS Inpatient Only , the setting is CMS ASC excluded .
If all codes have a value of No Setting Determined , the setting is No Setting Determined .	If codes include a mix of only CMS ASC eligible and No CMS Setting Available , the setting is CMS ASC eligible .
If codes include a mix of only Outpatient and No Setting Determined , the setting is No Setting Determined .	When there is no information available from CMS for a selected code, No CMS Setting Available is displayed.