

Department:	Utilization Management	Original Approval:	07/25/2016
Policy No:	UM428	Last Approval:	01/02/2025
Policy Title:	Benefit Limitation Extension Policy		
Approved By:	Clinical Services Leadership Team		
Dependencies:	UM205 – Timeliness of Utilization Management Decision Making		

Purpose

This policy defines the management of an eligible Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW) Medicaid member and/or the Medicaid member’s provider request regarding a benefit limitation extension under the Medicaid line of business. Limitation Extension (LE) applies to both Washington Apple Health Integrated Managed Care and Apple Health Expansion members.

Limitation Extension (LE) means a request by a member or member’s health care provider to extend a covered service with a limit according to WAC 182-501-0169.

Policy

Healthcare Coverage – Limitation Extension (LE)

This section addresses requests for limitation extensions regarding scope, amount, duration, and frequency of a covered health care service above and beyond the regular benefit. For the purposes of this policy, health care services include treatment, equipment, related supplies, and drugs. CHPW does not authorize or pay for any covered health care services exceeding identified limitations unless authorization is obtained before the member receives the service.

1. No limitation extension of covered services will be authorized when prohibited by specific program rules.
2. When a limitation extension is not prohibited by specific program rules, a member or the member's provider may request a limitation extension.
3. CHPW evaluates requests for limitation extensions according to CHPW’s prior authorization process.
4. CHPW considers the following in evaluating a request for a limitation extension:

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- a. The level of improvement the member has shown to date related to the requested service and the reasonably calculated probability of continued improvement if the requested service is extended; and
- b. The reasonably calculated probability the member's condition will worsen if the requested service is not extended.

Members can ask for an appeal at the same time as providers ask for a Limitation Extension.

CHPW follows policy UM205 – Timeliness of Utilization Management Decision Making for organizational determinations.

List of Appendices

- A. Detailed Revision History

Citations & References

CFR		
WAC	182-501-0169	
RCW		
LOB & Contract Citation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WAHIMC <input type="checkbox"/> BHSO <input type="checkbox"/> Wraparound <input type="checkbox"/> SMAC <input type="checkbox"/> HH	IMC Section 11.7.1.4.3.11: If services are denied or authorized in a more limited scope, amount or duration than requested because they would exceed the established limit on the scope, amount or duration of the requested service, inform Enrollees how to access the Limitation Extension (LE) process, IMC Section 16.1.10: For services that are covered, but with limits in scope, amount or duration the Contractor will have policies and procedures consistent with WAC 182-501-0169 Limitation Extension (LE) to determine medical necessity of services outside or more than the limit
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AHE	AHE Section 11.7.2.3.2.11: If services are denied or authorized in a more limited scope, amount or duration than requested because they would

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		exceed the established limit on the scope, amount or duration of the requested service, inform Enrollees how to access the Limitation Extension (LE) process, IMC Section 16.1.3.2: For services that are covered, but with limits in scope, amount or duration, the Contractor will have policies and procedures consistent with WAC 182-501-0169, Limitation Extension (LE), to determine medical necessity of services outside or more than the limit.
	<input type="checkbox"/> MA/DSNP	
	<input type="checkbox"/> CS	
Other Requirements		
NCQA Elements		
References		

Revision History

SME Review:	07/25/2016; 07/26/2016; 01/24/2017; 02/05/2018; 06/20/2018; 06/19/2019; 02/12/2020; 05/18/2020; 11/17/2020; 02/26/2020; 03/18/2022; 02/24/2023; 01/03/2024; 09/26/2024
Approval:	07/26/2016; 01/24/2017; 02/16/2018; 06/26/2018; 06/21/2019; 06/25/2020; 03/04/2021; 03/21/2022; 03/15/2023; 01/04/2024; 01/02/2025

Appendix A: Detailed Revision History

Revision Date	Revision Description	Revision Made By
07/25/2016	New policy created for “Extension Limitation”. Reformatted “Contract Citation” cell. Added “182” in front of - 501-0160 in the “WAC” cell. of	Cyndi Stilson
07/26/2016	Reviewed entire policy. No changes.	Jane Daughenbaugh
07/26/2016	Approved	MMLT
01/24/2017	Added language “CHPW follows policy UM205 –Timeliness of Utilizations Management Decision Making, for organizational determinations.”	Cyndi Stilson, RN
1/24/2017	Approved	MMLT
02/05/2018	Reviewed policy, no changes.	Justin Fowler
02/16/2018	Approval	Patty Jones
06/21/2018	Minor editing	Drew Breuckman
06/25/2018	Approved	Patty Jones, RN, MBA
06/19/2019	Added definition of Limitation Extension. Removed citation to WAC 182-501-0160, pertains to Exception to Rule. Updated title to Benefit Limitation Extension	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
06/21/2019	Approved	MMLT
02/12/2020	Updated citations and regulatory references	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
05/18/2020	Updated LE definition as stated in WAH-IMC contract. Added the work “limitation” to all extensions under Policy section.	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
06/20/2020	Approved	Ma’ata Hardman, RN, MBA, CCM
06/25/2020	Approval	CMO Cabinet
11/17/2020	Updated LOB and C&R	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
02/26/2020	Specified LE is applicable to Medicaid members	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
03/03/2021	Approved	Ma’ata Hardman
03/04/2021	Approval	CMO Cabinet
03/18/2022	Reviewed, no changes	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN

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03/21/2022	Approval	Justin Fowler, RN MSN
03/21/2022	Approval	Ma'ata Hardman
03/21/2022	Approval	CMO Cabinet
02/24/2023	Added that members may appeal at the same time providers as for LE. Added UM205 in the policy Dependencies.	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
03/14/2023	Approval	Ma'ata Hardman
03/15/2023	Approval	Clinical Services Leadership Team
01/02/2024	Reviewed, no content changes made	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
01/03/2024	Approval	Ma'ata Hardman
01/04/2024	Approval	Clinical Services Leadership Team
09/26/2024	Under Policy section, indicated LE applies to both WAHIMC and AHE members. Updated WAHIMC citation and added AHE contract citation.	Yves Houghton, RN, BSN
12/29/2024	Approval	Ma'ata Hardman
01/02/2025	Approval	Clinical Services Leadership Team