

# REMINDER

## Sepsis Guidelines

Molina Healthcare of Florida (Molina) has used the revised Sepsis guidelines issued by the Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3) for all product lines since July 1, 2019.

The guidelines have consolidated three Sepsis categories into two categories:

1. Sepsis and severe Sepsis have been merged into one category, called Sepsis
2. Septic shock (or Sepsis 3) has not changed significantly

Providers should note that patients who previously met the definition of Sepsis may be excluded from the updated Sepsis category. For example, a patient with a urinary tract infection (UTI) may have met the previous definition of Sepsis as evidenced by the systemic inflammatory response (elevated white cell count and an elevated temperature) and a site of infection. However, under the updated definition, unless the patient has an elevated heart rate, respiratory rate, confusion **and** other signs of organ dysfunction, they would no longer fit the definition of Sepsis.

### **About the Sepsis definitions**

These definitions are:

- Recognized by the industry and professional associations as aids to determine Sepsis and Septic shock, and
- The most recent evidence-based definitions for determining Sepsis and Septic shock.

The Sepsis definitions are used in clinical claim reviews to validate that Sepsis was present and that related services were appropriately submitted. If clinical documentation reviewed by Molina does not support Sepsis definitions, hospital payments will be adjusted accordingly.

### **Resources**

For additional information about Sepsis and Sepsis-3 definitions, please see: The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3). Singer, M., Deutschman, C. S., et al. JAMA 2016; 315 (8): 801-810.

If you have any questions for Molina about these guidelines, please contact us at (855) 322-4076.