

# Wellmark Utilization Management Criteria-Pediatric Bronchiolitis Inpatient Level of Care



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## INTRODUCTION

Bronchiolitis is a disorder commonly caused by a viral infection of the lower respiratory tract, inducing inflammation of the bronchioles. This results in edema, increased mucus production and small airway epithelial cell death. Clinical presentation typically begins with rhinitis and cough however may progress to tachypnea, increased work of breathing, wheezing, rales and/or nasal flaring.

This site of care guideline was developed by a consensus group of pediatricians, internal medicine, and adult, pediatric emergency department physicians and literature review to standardize the appropriate level of care of children diagnosed with acute bronchiolitis.

## OBJECTIVE

To promote consistency between utilization management reviewers, this Utilization Management Guideline will be utilized for determining the medical necessity of inpatient level of care for diagnosis of pediatric bronchiolitis.

## INPATIENT HOSPITAL LEVEL OF CARE DETERMINATION CRITERIA

Requests for Inpatient Hospital-Medical Center Level of Care for pediatric bronchiolitis not meeting the following criteria will be considered not medically necessary:

Requires  $\geq$  ONE of the following:

- Oxygen saturation  $<90\%$
- Fatigued appearance or lethargic
- Respiratory fatigue or distress (accessory muscle use-retractions, nasal flaring, tracheal tugging)
- Tachypnea, moderate to severe
- Apnea

AND

Requires  $\geq$  ONE of the following:

- High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) oxygen or CPAP
- Supplemental Oxygen (for Oxygen saturation  $< 90\%$ )

## UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT CRITERIA HISTORY

| Date      | Reason           | Action                                                                   |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 2024 | Internal Inquiry | New Utilization Management Criteria<br>Developed pediatric bronchiolitis |
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## Appendix-References

### Appendix 1:

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