CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

AmeriHealth Caritas has adopted clinical practice guidelines for use in guiding the treatment of plan members, with the goal of reducing unnecessary variations in care. The following clinical practice guidelines represent current professional standards, supported by scientific evidence and research. These guidelines are intended to inform, not replace, a physician's clinical judgment. The physician remains responsible for determining applicable treatment for each individual.

*This list of CPGs were reviewed and approved at QAPIC on 9/16/2026.

- **Click the links to search the guideline topics.**

Adolescent Health Risk Behavior Assessment
∞ US Preventive Services Task Force: Depression and Suicide Risk in Children and Adolescents: Screening (2022) ∞ American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Assessment and Treatment of Major and Persistent Depressive Disorders in Children and Adolescents (2023) ∞ American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Anxiety Disorders (2020) ∞ American Academy of Pediatrics: Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice (2019) ∞ American Academy of Pediatrics: Promoting Optimal Development: Screening for Mental Health, Emotional, and Behavioral Problems (2025) ∞ American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Assessment and Treatment of Adolescents and Young Adults With Substance Use Disorders and Problematic Substance Use (Excluding Tobacco) (2026) ∞ Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine: Management of Adolescent and Young Adult Sensitive Health Information Within the Electronic Health Record: A Position Paper (2026)
Advanced Care Planning
∞ American Society of Clinical Oncology: Palliative care in the global setting (2018) ∞ American Medical Association: Advance Care Planning (2017)
Asthma
∞ National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: Asthma Management Guidelines: Focused Updates 2020 (2020) ∞ European Respiratory Society/American Thoracic Society: Management of Severe Asthma (2019) ∞ National Asthma Education and Prevention Program: 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines (2020) ∞ American College of Chest Physicians: Managing Chronic Cough Due to Asthma and NAEB in Adults and Adolescents (2020) ∞ American College of Chest Physicians: Biologic Management in Severe Asthma for Adults (2025)

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Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
∞ American Academy of Pediatrics: Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents (2019)
∞ The Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics: Clinical Practice Guideline for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Complex Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (2020)
Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children
∞ American Academy of Pediatrics: Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder (2020)
∞ American Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Practice Parameter for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorder (2014)
∞ US Preventive Services Task Force: Autism Spectrum Disorder in Young Children Screening (2016)
Back Pain
∞ North American Spine Society: Diagnosis and Treatment of Low Back Pain (2020)
∞ Academy of Orthopedic Physical Therapy: Interventions for the Management of Acute and Chronic Low Back Pain (2021)
∞ American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians: Updated 2026 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Guidelines for Facet Joint Interventions in the Management of Chronic Spinal Pain (2026)
Bipolar Disorder
∞ American Academy of Family Physicians: Bipolar Disorders: Evaluation and Treatment (2021)
Brain Death
∞ American Academy of Neurology: Pediatric and Adult Brain Death/Death by Neurologic Criteria Consensus Guideline (2023)
Bronchitis
∞ American College of Chest Physicians: Acute Cough Due to Acute Bronchitis in Immunocompetent Adult Outpatients (2020)
∞ American Academy of Family Physicians: Acute Bronchitis: Rapid Evidence Review (2025)

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Caring for Adult Patients With Suicide Risk
∞ Suicide Prevention Resource Center: Caring for Adult Patients with Suicide Risk (2015)
∞ The American Psychiatric Association: Practice Guidelines for the Psychiatric Evaluation of Adults (2015)
∞ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force: Depression and Suicide Risk in Adults: Screening (2023)
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
∞ US Preventive Services Task Force: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Screening (2022)
∞ American Thoracic Society: Pharmacologic Management of COPD. A Clinical Practice Guideline (2020)
∞ American Thoracic Society: Long-Term Noninvasive Ventilation in Chronic Stable Hypercapnic Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (2020)
∞ Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease, Inc.: Global Initiative for the Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (2026)
Depression – Adults
∞ American Psychological Association: Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Depression Across Three Age Cohorts (2019)
∞ American College of Physicians: Nonpharmacologic and Pharmacologic Treatments of Adults in the Acute Phase of Major Depressive Disorder: A Living Clinical Guideline (2026)
Diabetes
∞ American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists: Clinical Practice Guideline for Development of a Diabetes Mellitus Comprehensive Care Plan (2022)
∞ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force: Gestational Diabetes: Screening (2021)
∞ American Diabetes Association: Standards of Care in Diabetes (2026)
∞ Endocrine Society: Preexisting Diabetes and Pregnancy: Joint Clinical Practice Guideline (2025)
∞ American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology/American Diabetes Association/American Society of Nephrology: Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome (2026)
Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Adults
∞ American Academy of Family Physicians: Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Panic Disorder in Adults (2022)
Heart Failure - Adults
∞ American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology/Heart Failure Society of America: Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure (2022)

- American College of Emergency Physicians: Clinical Policy: Critical Issues in the Evaluation and Management of Adult Patients Presenting to the Emergency Department With Acute Heart Failure Syndromes (2022)
- American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association: Guideline for the Management of Adults With Congenital Heart Disease (2025)
- American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology/European Society of Cardiology/World Heart Federation: Expert Consensus Document – Second Universal Definition of Heart Failure (2026)
- Heart Failure Society of America: Heart Failure With Mildly Reduced Ejection Fraction: An HFSA Scientific Statement (2026)
- American Heart Association: Strategies for Optimizing Heart Failure Care in the Older Adult: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association (2026)

HIV/AIDS

- US Preventive Services Task Force: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection: Screening (2019 – Update in Progress)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Prevention of Acquisition of HIV: Preexposure Prophylaxis (2023)
- Infectious Diseases Society of America: Primary Care Guidance for Providers Who Care for Persons With Human Immunodeficiency Virus (2024)
- National Institutes of Health: Opportunistic Infections in Adults and Adolescents With HIV: Prevention and Treatment (2026)
- Community Preventive Services Task Force: HIV Prevention: Clinical Decision Support System to Increase HIV Screening (2020)
- Community Preventive Services Task Force: HIV Prevention and Control: Partner Services to Increase HIV Testing (2021)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Clinical Recommendation for Injectable Lenacapavir as HIV PrEP (2025)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Antiretroviral Postexposure Prophylaxis After Sexual, Injection Drug Use, or Other Nonoccupational Exposure to HIV (2025)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Human Immunodeficiency Virus Screening and Preexposure Prophylaxis (2026)

Hypertension- Adults

- American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association: Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults (2025)
- American Academy of Family Physicians: Blood Pressure Targets in Adults With Hypertension (2022)
- Endocrine Society: Clinical Practice Guideline for Primary Aldosteronism (2025)

Kidney Disease - Adults

- Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes: KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease (2024)
- Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes: KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease (2026)

- Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes: KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (2025)
- National Kidney Foundation/Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative: KDOQI US Commentary on the KDIGO 2025 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation, Management, and Treatment of Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) (2026)
- National Kidney Foundation/Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative: KDOQI US Commentary on the KDIGO 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibody (ANCA)-Associated Vasculitis (2026)
- National Kidney Foundation/Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative: KDOQI US Commentary on the KDIGO 2026 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease (2026)
- National Kidney Foundation/Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative: KDOQI US Commentary on the KDIGO 2025 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (IgAN) and Immunoglobulin A Vasculitis (IgAV) (2026)

Lipid Disorders

- American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association: ACC/AHA/AACVPR/ABC/ACPM/ADA/AGS/APhA/ASPC/NLA/PCNA Guideline on the Management of Dyslipidemia (2026)
- American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association: Guideline for the Management of Patients With Acute Coronary Syndromes (2025)
- American Association of Clinical Endocrinology: Management of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (2022)
- American Association of Clinical Endocrinology: Pharmacologic Management of Adults With Dyslipidemia (2025)
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force: Lipid Disorders in Children and Adolescents: Screening (2023)
- American College of Cardiology: Antiplatelet Therapy in the Management of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease – Scientific Statement (2026)

Office-Based Surgery Sedation

- American Society of Anesthesiologists: Practice Guidelines for Moderate Procedural Sedation and Analgesia (2018)
- American Society of Anesthesiologists: Statement on Office-Based Anesthesia (2024)
- American Academy of Dermatology: Use of Local Anesthesia in Office-Based Dermatologic Surgery (2016)
- American College of Surgeons: Patient Safety Principles for Office-Based Surgery Utilizing Moderate Sedation/Analgesia (2019)
- American Dental Association: ADA Guidelines for the Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia by Dentists (2026)

Opioid Use Disorder

- American Society of Addiction Medicine: Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (2020)
- American Society of Addiction Medicine: Joint Clinical Practice Guideline on Benzodiazepine Tapering (2025)

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Clinical Guidance for Treating Pregnant and Parenting Women With Opioid Use Disorder and Their Infants (2018)

Opioid Prescribing

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain (2022)
- American Pediatric Surgical Association: Guidelines for Opioid Prescribing in Children and Adolescents After Surgery (2021)
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Opioid Prescribing for Acute Pain Management in Children and Adolescents in Outpatient Settings (2024)

Oppositional Defiant Disorder

- American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry: Psychosocial and Pharmacologic Interventions for Disruptive Behavior in Children and Adolescents (2025)

Orthognathic Surgery

- American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons: Indications for Orthognathic Surgery (2025)

Osteoarthritis- Adults

- American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation: Guideline for the Management of Osteoarthritis of the Hand, Hip, and Knee (2020)
- American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons: Management of Osteoarthritis of the Knee (Non-Arthroplasty) (2021)
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons: Management of Ankle Osteoarthritis (2026)

Osteoporosis

- American College of Physicians: Pharmacologic Treatment of Primary Osteoporosis or Low Bone Mass to Prevent Fractures in Adults: A Living Clinical Guideline (2025)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Screening US Preventive Services Task Force: Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures: Screening (2025)
- American College of Radiology: Osteoporosis and Bone Mineral Density (2022)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Osteoporosis Prevention, Screening, and Diagnosis (2021)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Management of Postmenopausal Osteoporosis (2022)

Overweight and Obesity- Children and Adults

- American Academy of Pediatrics: Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Obesity (2023)
- American Diabetes Association: Obesity and Weight Management for the Prevention and Treatment of Diabetes: Standards of Care in Diabetes (2026)

- American Gastroenterological Association: Clinical Practice Guideline on Pharmacological Interventions for Adults With Obesity (2022)
- American Psychological Association: Multicomponent Behavioral Treatment of Obesity and Overweight in Children and Adolescents (2018)
- American Diabetes Association (Obesity Association): Pharmacologic Treatment of Obesity in Adults – Standards of Care in Overweight and Obesity (2026)
- The Obesity Society/Obesity Medicine Association/Obesity Action Coalition: Expert Guidance Statement on the Pharmacological Management of United States Adults With Overweight or Obesity (2026)
- American Diabetes Association Professional Practice Committee for Obesity: Screening, Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Staging of Obesity in Adults: Standards of Care in Overweight and Obesity—2026

Pharyngitis - Children

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Clinical Guidance for Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis (2025)
- Infectious Diseases Society of America: Clinical Practice Guideline on Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis (2025)

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

- American Psychological Association: Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of PTSD in Adults (2025)
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (2010)
- Community Preventive Services Task Force: Mental Health: Multi-Tiered Trauma-Informed School Programs to Improve Mental Health Among Youth (2023)

Pregnancy Prenatal and Postnatal Care

- US Preventive Services Task Force: Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy: Screening Asymptomatic Pregnant Persons (2023)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Breastfeeding: Primary Care Behavioral Counseling Interventions (2025)
- American College of Cardiology: Optimization of Postpartum Care for Patients With and at Risk for Premature and Long-Term Cardiovascular Disease – Expert Consensus Decision Pathway (2026)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Statement: Evaluation and Management of Cell-Free DNA Screening for Fetal Red Cell Antigen Genotype in Alloimmunized and Non-Alloimmunized Pregnancies (2026)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Statement: Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy (2026)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Special Statement: Assessment and Management of Reported Penicillin Allergy in Pregnancy (2026)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Special Statement: Revised Updated Checklist for Antepartum Care of Pregestational Diabetes Mellitus (2026)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Special Statement: Updated Checklists for Preeclampsia Risk-Factor Screening to Guide Recommendations for Prophylactic Low-Dose Aspirin (2026)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Special Statement: Updated Checklists for Management of Monochorionic Twin Pregnancy (2026)

- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Breastfeeding in Patients With Human Immunodeficiency Virus (2026)

Pregnancy Prevention - Adolescents and Adults

- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Patient-Centered Contraceptive Counseling (2022)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Medical Eligibility for Contraceptive Use (2024)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Access to Contraception (2025)

Preventive Care- Children, Adolescents, and Adults

- American Academy of Family Physicians: Adults 19 and Older Immunization Schedule (2026)
- American Academy of Family Physicians: Birth Through Age 18 Immunization Schedule (2026)
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger (2026)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Maternal Immunizations (2026)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Statin Use for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Adults: Preventive Medication (2022)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Screening: Asymptomatic Adults at Increased Risk of Latent Tuberculosis Infection (2023)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Breast Cancer: Screening (2024)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Food Insecurity: Screening (2025)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Screening for Cervical Cancer (2026)

Preventive Pediatric Health Care - Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule

- Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics: Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care – Periodicity Schedule (2025)
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Recommendations for the Prevention of RSV Disease in Infants and Children (2025)
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2025-2026 (2025)
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccines in Infants, Children, and Adolescents (2025)
- Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine: Adolescent and Young Adult Vaccination: A Position Paper (2026)

Schizophrenia

- American Psychiatric Association: Treatment of Patients With Schizophrenia (2020)

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines (2021)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Syphilis Infection in Nonpregnant Adolescents and Adults: Screening (2022)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Syphilis Infection During Pregnancy: Screening (2025)

Sickle Cell Disease

- American Society of Hematology: Guidelines on Sickle Cell Disease (2019-2021)
- American Society of Hematology: Practical Guide for Disease-Modifying Medication Management of Children and Adolescents With Sickle Cell Disease (2024)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine: Sickle Cell Disease in Pregnancy (2024)

Substance Use

- American Society of Addiction Medicine: Various Guidelines
- Community Preventive Services Task Force: Substance Use: Family-based Interventions to Prevent Substance Use among Youth (2023)
- American Society of Addiction Medicine/American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry: Clinical Practice Guideline on the Management of Stimulant Use Disorder (2024)

Tobacco Control

- US Preventive Services Task Force: Tobacco Smoking Cessation in Adults, Including Pregnant Persons: Interventions (2021)
- US Preventive Services Task Force: Tobacco Use in Children and Adolescents: Primary Care Interventions (2020)
- American Thoracic Society: Initiating Pharmacologic Treatment in Tobacco-Dependent Adults (2020)

Transgender Health

- Endocrine Society: Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons (2017)
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH): Standards of Care Version 8 (2022)

North Carolina Session Law 2023-111 (formerly HB 808), makes it unlawful for a medical professional to perform a surgical gender transition procedure on a minor or to prescribe, provide, or dispense puberty-blocking drugs or cross-sex hormones to a minor except as permitted under G.S. 90-21.152.

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Venous Thrombosis
∞ American Society of Hematology: Guidelines for Management of Venous Thromboembolism: Treatment of Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism (2020) ∞ American Society of Hematology & International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis: Revised Clinical Practice Guidelines on Pediatric Venous Thromboembolism (2025). ∞ American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association: Guideline for the Evaluation and Management of Acute Pulmonary Embolism in Adults (2026) ∞ American College of Cardiology: Direct Oral Anticoagulants in Primary and Secondary Prevention of Thrombotic Events – Scientific Statement (2026) ∞ American Society of Hematology/International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis: Guidelines for Anticoagulant Prophylaxis in Pediatric Patients at Risk of Venous Thromboembolism (2026)
Vision Care
∞ American Academy of Ophthalmology: Age-Related Macular Degeneration Preferred Practice Pattern (2024; updated 2026) ∞ American Academy of Ophthalmology: Diabetic Retinopathy Preferred Practice Pattern (2024) ∞ American Academy of Ophthalmology/American Glaucoma Society: Position Statement on Nicotinamide Use for Glaucoma Neuroprotection - 2025 (2025) ∞ American Optometric Association: Care of the Patient With Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma (2024) ∞ American Optometric Association: Comprehensive Adult Eye and Vision Examination, 2nd ed. (2023) ∞ American Optometric Association: Eye Care of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus, 2nd ed. (2019) ∞ American Optometric Association: Comprehensive Pediatric Eye and Vision Examination (2017) ∞ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force: Impaired Visual Acuity in Older Adults: Screening (2022) ∞ American Academy of Ophthalmology: Retinal Vein Occlusions Preferred Practice Pattern (2026)