

# Provider Memorandum

## **New Sepsis Guidelines**

Beginning March 1, 2019, Molina Healthcare of Illinois (Molina) will use the revised sepsis guidelines issued by the Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3).

The new guidelines have consolidated three sepsis categories into two categories:

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

Molina contracted providers should note that patients who previously met the definition of sepsis may be excluded from the new sepsis category. For example, a patient with a urinary tract infection (UTI) may have met the previous definition of sepsis as evidenced by the systematic inflammatory response (elevated white cell count and an elevated temperature) and a site of infection. However, under the new definition, unless the patient has an elevated heart rate, elevated respiratory rate, confusion and other signs of organ dysfunction, he/she will no longer fit the definition of sepsis.

## **About the Sepsis Definitions:**

These definitions are:

- Recognized by the health care 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 definition is used in clinical claims 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 appropriately.

## **Resources**

For more information on the sepsis and sepsis-3 definitions please read 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, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2492881>.

## **Questions**

If you have questions related to sepsis and sepsis-3, please call Provider Services at (855) 866-5462.