

# Provider Memorandum

## New Sepsis Guidelines

Beginning January 10, 2021, Molina Healthcare of Texas will use the revised sepsis guidelines issued by the Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3) for Molina's Medicaid and Marketplace programs.

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

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 systemic 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, respiratory rate, confusion **and** other signs of organ dysfunction, he/she 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 appropriately.

## 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.

## Questions

If you have questions, please call Molina Provider Services at (855) 322-4080.