POLICY 3  
Standard of Care

The Standard of Care is a case- and time-specific analytical process in medical decision-making, reflecting a clinical benchmark of acceptable quality medical care. This benchmark, which is used to evaluate and guide the practice of medicine, encompasses the learning, skill and clinical judgment ordinarily possessed and used by prudent health care providers or payors of good standing in similar circumstances. The standard of care must reflect the art (consensus of opinion of clinical judgment) and science (published peer reviewed literature) of medicine and must be uniform for all health care personnel whether they are providing direct clinical care or reviewing the medical necessity of past, present or future medical care. A violation of standard of care may result in under-utilization of medical care, but also occurs when unnecessary care (over-utilization) is provided. The standard of care has a national and clinical basis, rather than a local provider community or payor review basis.

Definition of Health Care Provider: Physician (MD, DO, DDS, DMD, DPM), chiropractor, psychologist, nurse, technician, administrator or any other independent contractor or employee of a health care organization, medical group, managed care entity, hospital, clinic, office or any other inpatient or outpatient facility, person or corporation, joint venture, or any facility involved in the clinical provision or review of any aspect of health care.

References:
The Hippocratic Oath. Hippocrates, 5th Century BC. Available at: www.phs.org/wgbh/nova/doctors/oath_classical.html

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, 12/5/92
Amendments adopted by the Board of Trustees, 2/21/04, 2/17/10

POLICY 4  
The Medical Decision-Making Process

The medical decision-making process used in medical quality management reflects a consensus of opinion of clinical judgment that is supported by published peer reviewed scientific literature.

This decision-making process must be conducted in a uniform, timely and consistent manner utilizing risk-benefit analysis.

The medical decision-making process applies not only to all direct patient care but also to the medical review of care a patient receives.

This decision-making process must be documented in writing, reflecting how it is consistent with the applicable standard of care, and must be performed by qualified and credentialed health care professionals.

References:
JAMA Vol.273 No. 4., January 25, 1995 Available at: http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/273/4/302
JAMA, Vol. 282 No. 24, December 22, 1999 Available at: http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/282/24/2313
JAMA, Vol 290, No.12, September 24, 2003 Available at: http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/290/12/1624
Decision Making in Health and Medicine: Integrating Evidence and Value, Hunink, Myriam; Glasziou, Paul, Cambridge University Press; 2001 http://books.google.com/bo oks?hl=en&lr=&id=M4pMurDyo34C&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=%22Hunink%22+%22Decision+making+in+health+and+medicine:+integrating+...%22+&ots=OFT5Q5UT- 
The Hippocratic Oath. Hippocrates, 5th Century BC. Available at: www.phs.org/wgbh/nova/doctors/oath_classical.html

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, 12/5/92
Amendments adopted by the Board of Trustees, 2/21/04, 2/17/10

Adopted by the Executive Committee, 12/5/92
Amendments adopted by the Board of Trustees, 11/13/97, 2/21/04, 2/17/10