



| Topic                                    | TURNINGPOINT Policy  |
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| <b>BMI</b>                               | <p>For policies requiring BMI Criteria apply as written for all contracted LOBs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For BMI 30 to 35, medical record must document weight discussion</li> <li>For BMI 35 or greater, medical record must document plan for weight loss</li> <li>BMI greater than 40 is a contraindication unless significant weight loss has been clearly documented (10% of initial body weight or until BMI is below 40).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include current smoking status and quit date, if applicable</li> <li>Cotinine tests and enrollment in smoking cessation programs are <u>not</u> required; may be accepted as additional evidence of, but not a substitution for, quit date/cessation</li> <li>If a patient is unwilling or unable to quit per requirements, must submit informed consent, including documented discussion between the provider and patient of the increased risk for complications, potential revisions, and lower patient satisfaction</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Inpatient to Outpatient Downgrade</b> | <p>Based on a 5-point scale accounting for comorbidities, case types will be reviewed for either inpatient or outpatient status. Cases for patients not meeting inpatient criteria might be denied if requested for inpatient level of care. TurningPoint will notify the provider's office if the case does not meet inpatient criteria and request the office to change the status of the case to outpatient. <i>(Excluding cases that apply the Medicare inpatient only procedure list)</i></p>   |
| <b>Conservative Therapy</b>              | <p><b>Physical Therapy</b><br/>Satisfied with documentation that member has completed physical therapy, as confirmed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dates attended/duration</li> <li>Response/reason for discontinuing</li> <li>Activity modification: detailed examples should be provided on how pain interferes with daily activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Home Exercise Program (HEP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home exercise program handout is accepted along with a documented discussion with the patient on the program, including follow-up with duration attempted and response, where HEP is allowed in place of PT</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-Operative Treatment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medication: include type, duration, and response for each</li> <li>Injections: include type, duration, and response for each</li> </ul> |



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| <b>Medicare Cases - Code 0275T</b> | <p>NCD is followed for Medicare cases. Requires the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial number</li> <li>• Confirmation of facility participation</li> <li>• Trial criteria met</li> </ul> <p>(Note: Commercial cases are denied as investigational)</p>   |
| <b>Devices &amp; Implants</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only implants with FDA approval are considered to be medically appropriate</li> <li>• All implant information for planned procedures, including biologics, should be submitted; this should contain both the manufacturer and the specific product or device name.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spinal fusions: Grafts (including biologics, allografts, and substitutes/extendors), screws/rods, plates, cages</li> <li>• Spinal implants: Interspinous/interlaminar spacers, facet implants, etc.</li> <li>• Cardiac Implants: Watchman, TAVR</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Risks vs Benefits</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical information must include history of present illness, physical examination, past medical history (including family and social history), surgical history, and procedure plan with documented discussion of risks and benefits</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Office Visit</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient must be seen by attending provider within 4 months of the planned procedure.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Coding</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must include rationale for and align with all procedure codes requested; codes with CCI edits may be denied unless there is documentation to support separate requests</li> </ul>  |