



HEALTHCARE COOPERATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

Wisconsin Marketplace

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Against Medical Advice-WI MP-AD-1489	01/01/2025
Policy Type	
ADMINISTRATIVE	

Administrative Policy Statements are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased, or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other plan policies and procedures.

Administrative Policy Statements do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Administrative Policy Statement. Except as otherwise required by law, if there is a conflict between the Administrative Policy Statement and the plan contract, then the plan contract will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

Table of Contents

A.	Subject	2
B.	Background	2
C.	Definitions.....	2
D.	Policy	2
E.	Conditions of Coverage	2
F.	Related Policies/Rules	3
G.	Review/Revision History	3
H.	References	3

A. Subject

Against Medical Advice

B. Background

Studies show that approximately 1-2% of all hospitalizations result in discharge against medical advice (AMA). Discharges AMA are at higher risk for inadequately treated medical conditions, readmissions, and negative health outcomes when compared to planned discharges. Documented reasons for leaving AMA may include lack of satisfaction with the treatment team, treatment team members, or facility, a general mistrust of medical systems, underutilization of social support, and/or a lack of health insurance or low socio-economic status. Additionally, research indicates that some previously diagnosed conditions substantially impact rates of AMA discharge. Patients with psychiatric conditions, substance abuse disorders, and human immunodeficiency virus are at the most significant risk for an AMA discharge.

C. Definitions

- **Against Medical Advice (AMA)** – A member chooses to leave the hospital or acute care setting before a practitioner writes the order for discharge. Also known as self-directed discharge.

D. Policy

- I. Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative will only pay for services, procedures, and supplies rendered.
- II. The discharge status code on the submitted claim must indicate that the member left AMA.
- III. If a member leaves AMA in the emergency room and the facility has submitted a prior authorization for inpatient services, only the emergency room will be considered for payment.
- IV. Claims are subject to retrospective review, and Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative reserves the right to adjust reimbursement in accordance with the policies above.

E. Conditions of Coverage

Member must be eligible at the time the service, procedure, or supply was provided, and the service, procedure, or supply must be a covered benefit. Reimbursement is dependent on, but not limited to, submitting approved HCPCS and CPT® codes along with appropriate modifiers, if applicable. Medical necessity reviews do not guarantee reimbursement. All services, procedures, and supplies are subject to review for medical necessity.

F. Related Policies/Rules

N/A

G. Review/Revision History

DATE		ACTION
Date Issued	09/25/2024	New policy. Approved at Committee.
Date Revised		
Date Effective	01/01/2025	
Date Archived		

H. References

1. Albayati A, Douedi S, Alshami A, et al. Why do patients leave against medical advice? Reasons, consequences, prevention, and interventions. *Healthcare (Basel)*. 2021;9(2):111. doi:10.3390/healthcare9020111
2. Alper E, O'Malley T, Greenwald J. Hospital discharge and readmission. UpToDate. Updated February 3, 2023. Accessed May 30, 2024. www.uptodate.com
3. Hasan O, Samad MA, Khan H, et al. Leaving against medical advice from in-patient departments rate, reasons and predicting risk factors for re-visiting hospital retrospective cohort from a tertiary care hospital. *Int J Health Policy Man*. 2019;8(8):474-479. doi:10.15/2019.26
4. Holmes EG, Cooley BS, Fleisch SB, et al. Against medical advice discharge: a narrative review and recommendations for a systematic approach. *Am J Med*. 2021;134(6):721-726. doi:10.1016/j.amjmed.2020.12.027
5. Khalili M, Teimouri A, Shahramian I, et al. Discharge against medical advice in paediatric patients. *J Taibah Univ Med Sci*. 2019;14(3):262-267. doi:10.1016/j.jtumed.2019.03.001
6. Levenson J. Psychological factors affecting other medical conditions: management. UpToDate. Updated September 19, 2022. Accessed May 30, 2024. www.uptodate.com
7. Spooner KK, Saunders JJ, Chima CC, et al. Increased risk of 30-day hospital readmission among patients discharged against medical advice: a nationwide analysis. *Ann Epidemiol*. 2020;52:77-85. doi:10.1016/j.annepidem.2020.07.021
8. Tan SY, Feng JY, Joyce C, et al. Association of hospital discharge against medical advice with readmission and in-hospital mortality. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2020;3(6):e206009. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.6009

The ADMINISTRATIVE Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the ADMINISTRATIVE Policy Statement Policy and is approved.