

CHANGES TO MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW CRITERIA FOR NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU) LEVEL OF CARE ADMISSIONS

This notification applies to the following networks: *Commercial HMO, POS, and PPO*. A listing of all networks can be found on the provider website at <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/communications/letters>

Effective November 1, 2023, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) is **retiring** the level of care criteria for NICU admissions.

Explanation of the change:

Kaiser Permanente has elected to retire the MCG care guidelines regarding medical necessity level of care criteria for NICU admissions:

- Neonatal Facility, Level II (LOC-005)
- Neonatal Facility, Level III (LOC-006)
- Neonatal Facility, Level IV (LOC-007)

Clinical review criteria can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at: <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/nicu.pdf>

Questions: Contact Provider Assistance Unit at 1-888-767-4670, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc.

<CONTRACT MANAGER NAME>

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