

## Position Statement on Medical Necessity Definition

Approved by the Board of Trustees, October 2000  
Reaffirmed, 2008

"Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees...These are...position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects..." – *APA Operations Manual*.

The American Psychiatric Association endorses the statement from the American Medical Association which defines "medical necessity" as:

"... services or products that a prudent physician would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, diagnosing, or treating an illness, injury, or its symptoms in a manner that is: (1) in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice; (2) clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration; and (3) not primarily for the convenience of the patient, physician, or other health care provider. "

The current version of the AMA Policy Statement, H-320.953—Definitions of "Screening" and "Medical Necessity" (CMS Rep. 13, I-98; Modified: Res. 703, A-03) can be found online at the AMA PolicyFinder:  
<http://www.ama-assn.org/>