Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) Medical Necessity Criteria

Documentation Required Prior to Determination:

Initial and Re-Authorization: requires the PNO/Provider Agency or inpatient physician to submit a prior authorization request for all ECT procedures. Documentation related to the information under Diagnostic Criteria should be submitted at the time of request.

Length of Authorization: up to sixty days maximum, authorized in blocks of 6 for Mercy RBHA members

Determination Criteria:

Mercy Care Affiliated RBHA considers electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) medically necessary for the management of the following conditions:

(1) Depression - Major depression or Bipolar depression
(2) Mania
(3) Schizophrenia and related disorders – psychotic symptoms associated with significant occupational / social dysfunction and not responding to pharmacotherapy
(4) Catatonia

Selection Criteria for ECT:

(1) Member has one of the qualifying psychiatric conditions listed above
(2) Member is at least 12 years old and
(3) One of the following criteria is met:
   (a) Member is unresponsive to effective medications, given for adequate dose and duration that are indicated for the member’s condition
   (b) Member is unable to tolerate effective medications or has a medical condition for which medication is contraindicated
   (c) Member has had favorable responses to ECT in the past
   (d) Member is unable to wait safely until medication is effective (eg. Life threatening inanition, psychosis, stupor, extreme agitation, high suicide or homicide risk)
   (e) Member is experiencing severe mania (296.43, 296.44,) or depression (296.23,296.33, 296.24, 296.34, 296.53,296.54 ) during pregnancy
   (f) Member prefers ECT as a treatment option
(4) Relative contraindications to ECT include but are not limited to: space occupying lesions of the brain; high intracranial pressure; unstable or severe cardiovascular disease; recent myocardial infarction; recent cerebral infarction; retinal detachment; high anesthesia risk; significant medical risk; unstable musculoskeletal injuries (particularly spinal)