

## Medical Scope Guidelines

These are regional guidelines set by our regional partner, Project Access NOW (also available on the website [www.projectaccessnow.org/toolbox.html](http://www.projectaccessnow.org/toolbox.html)) Multnomah County differs in that we will accept some donated health care services that the regional program can not support. For example, we have volunteers in Physical Medicine Therapy, as well as behavioral health volunteers, but we can not provide pharmacy support for mental health prescriptions.

At Multnomah County, we rely on volunteer physician to be the authority on medical necessity for their patient. If a volunteer determines medical necessity and is willing to provide the necessary care, we will do our best to support them.

### General principles for scope of medical services

- Project Access NOW will offer services that represent a targeted group of most commonly needed services
- Services will be provided for conditions that have an immediate need for treatment or management (includes medical, surgical, and some chronic conditions)
- Services will be “medically necessary”
- Project Access NOW is the provider of “last resort” in that services that are accessible for free in other venues should be sought in those settings
- Project Access NOW services are a “bridge” to care and not a permanent solution
- Local programs may develop resources not set forth in this document – however, they will be limited and will be specific to community need and volunteer willingness.

### Definition of medically necessary services

“Medically Necessary” refers to inpatient or outpatient health care services provided for the purpose of evaluation, diagnosis and/ or treatment of an injury, illness, disease or its symptoms which otherwise left untreated would pose a threat to the patients ongoing health status; services must be clinically appropriate and within generally accepted medical practice standards; services include the most appropriate and cost effective supply, device or service that can be safely provided and readily available at a local hospital, with a primary purpose other than patient or provider convenience. Expressly excluded from medically necessary services are health care services that are cosmetic; experimental or part of a clinical research program; non-PANOW professional fees; services and/or treatments not provided at a local hospital.

### Time-limited commitment for services

Project Access NOW is not intended to offer permanent access to care for patients. Patients will be fully informed of this when they enroll.

Project Access NOW Providers have committed to serve patients for defined episodes or care or limited terms of medical management. Providers may opt to continue service to patients beyond the enrollment period – but this is an individual provider decision.

### Provider terms of service

Project Access NOW patients are active in the program for six months. Providers’ commitment to service can be for the entire enrollment period or shorter periods as listed below.

## Service Commitments by specialty

1. Specialty or surgical care - 90 days or universal treatment period for presenting complaint or procedure.
2. Primary care – medical management of chronic conditions – 6 months
3. Primary care – medical management during surgical period – 90 days or universal treatment period.
4. End of care notification – County Project Access Programs will inform patients of term of care.

## Discontinuation of care

Providers may at times find themselves unable to continue to serve a PANOW patient and wish to terminate care prior to the end of the service commitment. There will be an orderly process for doing so. Process TBD.

## Specific services that are outside the scope of Project Access NOW

Project Access NOW has a limited scope and does not attempt to provide the following services: **Multnomah County differs in that we will accept some donated health care services that the regional program doesn't support.**

1. Behavioral health care – **Multnomah County will accept donated psychiatric or psychological counseling services, but can not support mental health pharmacy needs. We have a great need for psychiatric medication management services.**
2. Bariatric surgery
3. Transplants
4. Ongoing or pre-existing dialysis
5. Circumcisions
6. Physical therapy (with exceptions), occupational therapy or ongoing nutritional counseling  
**Multnomah County receives donated Physical Medicine Therapies**
7. Maternity care and deliveries
8. Chronic pain management **Multnomah County receives donated counseling & our safety net clinics offer non-narcotic alternatives to pain management like acupuncture.**
9. Physicals for any reason other than pre-surgery or to enable medical management of an active medical condition
10. Preventive services unless they are part of a diagnostic work-up
11. Immunizations and allergy testing
12. Flu shots unless medically indicated
13. Trauma
14. Conditions for which third party liability payments exist such as MVA or work comp
15. Infertility treatments or sterilizations
16. Cosmetic surgery
17. Any specialty service in which there is not an active provider volunteer base
18. Research and experimental treatments