Certification of Need (CON) (42 CFR 441.152, 456.30, 456.160) QM 2.9/QM 3.0

A CON is a certification made by a physician that inpatient services are or were needed at the time of the person's admission to a Level I facility. Although a CON must be submitted prior to a person's admission (except in an emergency), a CON is not an authorization tool designed to approve or deny an inpatient service, rather it is a federally required attestation by a physician that inpatient services are or were needed at the time of the person's admission. The decision to authorize a service that requires prior authorization is determined through the application of admission and continued stay authorization criteria. In the event of an emergency, the CON must be submitted:

- For persons age 21 or older, within 72 hours of admission; and
- For persons under the age of 21, within 14 days of admission.