
To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: June 27, 2024

Subject: [Informational Bulletin 24-2](#): ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services (Revised June 26, 2024)

Informational Bulletins that summarize policies and/or procedures are intended for quick reference and are accurate on the date they are issued.

ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana is sharing information with providers regarding an update to the ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH).

If the revisions included in the ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition, Volume 1 for adults are adopted, it will require numerous changes to Louisiana documents, inclusive of the Medicaid State Plan, Behavioral Health Service Providers licensing rule, and the Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual. The Office of Behavioral Health is researching changes that would be needed to rules, regulations and policies to align with Volume 1 of The ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition for adults and is partnering with AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and other Medicaid managed care organizations (MCO) to plan for operational implementation of the updated criteria if these revisions are adopted.

Transition to ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition for adults is dependent on implementation readiness and budget availability. Should LDH pursue implementation, it will require approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the needed State Plan Amendment (SPA), promulgation of required rules, and revisions to the Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual. If implemented, these revisions will occur

during calendar year 2024, and the revisions will require operational changes at the MCO and the provider levels. Providers will be kept informed about the status of approvals and revisions as they are finalized via updates to this Informational Bulletin. Pending budget allocation, CMS approval, and the publication of rules and the Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual revisions, the anticipated effective date for providers to come into compliance is **January 1, 2026**.

For full details, please see [Informational Bulletin 24-2 Revised 6.26.24](#).

Questions regarding this message should be directed to AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007.

The Provider Services Department can be reached between 7:00 am – 7:00 pm daily.

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