
To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: February 25, 2026

Subject: [Informational Bulletin 24-2](#): ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services (Revised February 19, 2026)

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 updates to the ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH).

The revisions included in this updated edition will be adopted in 2026, and will require numerous changes to Louisiana documents. The Office of Behavioral Health is drafting the necessary changes to rules, regulations and policies to align with Volume 1 of The ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition for adults and is partnering with the AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and other Medicaid managed care organizations (MCO) to plan for operational implementation of the updated criteria.

Transition to evidence-based practice standards in the ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition for Adults for various levels of care is scheduled for 2026, with providers required to be in full compliance with revised rules, regulations and Medicaid policy criteria by **July 1, 2026**. The updated Medicaid fee schedule reflective of associated rate increases went into effect **January 1, 2026**. Providers may review [Medicaid Informational Bulletin 25-31](#) and the [Specialized Behavioral Health Fee Schedule](#) for more information.

Providers are encouraged to begin preparations now to comply with revisions located in [Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual](#). Please check with AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana for available [ASAM 4th Edition training](#) opportunities.

For full details, please see [Informational Bulletin 24-2 Revised 2.19.26](#).

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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