
To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: February 16, 2024

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

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). Revisions have been made to the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) standards of care, The ASAM Criteria 4th edition, Volume 1 for adults, around criteria for treatment of substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions.

The revisions included in the updated edition will require numerous changes to Louisiana documents, including the Medicaid State Plan, Behavioral Health Service Providers licensing rule, and the Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual. The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) is working to align rules, regulations, and policies to Volume 1 of the ASAM Criteria 4th Edition for adults. It is partnering with the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) to plan for the operational implementation of the updated criteria.

Following the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval of the needed State Plan Amendment (SPA) and promulgation of required rules, the Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual will be revised to include ASAM's updated criteria. These revisions will occur during the calendar year 2024 and require operational changes at the MCO and 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 CMS approval, the publication of rules, and the Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual revisions, the anticipated effective date for providers to comply is January 1, 2025.

Providers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the revisions in The ASAM Criteria - 4th Edition for planning and preparation purposes. The digital and print versions are now available for purchase from Hazelden Publishing: <https://discover.hazeldenbettyford.org>.

For full details, please see IB [24-2](#).

Questions regarding this message should be directed to AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at

1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#). The Provider Services Department can be reached between 7:00 am – 7:00 pm daily.

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