



## **ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services**

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) periodically updates the standards of care delineated in the ASAM criteria for the treatment of substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions. Louisiana uses ASAM criteria to establish Medicaid treatment guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence. On October 5, 2023, Hazelden Betty Ford released the digital version of The ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition, Volume 1 for adults, which revised certain standards and levels of care for serving the adult population.

The revisions included in this updated edition will be adopted in 2026, and 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 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 Medicaid managed care organizations (MCO) to plan for operational implementation of the updated criteria.

Transition to evidence-based practice standards in the ASAM Criteria- 4<sup>th</sup> 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 included in the [Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual](#). Please check with the Medicaid managed care organizations for available ASAM 4th Edition training opportunities.

The digital and print versions are now available for purchase from Hazelden Publishing: [ASAM Criteria and Levels of Care \(hazeldenbettyford.org\)](https://www.hazeldenbettyford.org)

LDH has published Informational Bulletin 24-02 for your reference [IB24-02 revised 02.19.26.pdf](#).

For questions or concerns regarding any bulletin, contact United Healthcare Community Plan at 1-866-675-1607.