



## **ASAM Designation Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)?**

Founded in 1954, ASAM is a professional society representing over 5000 physicians, clinicians and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction.

### **2. What is the ASAM Criteria?**

ASAM's criteria, formerly known as the ASAM patient placement criteria, is the result of a collaboration that began in the 1980s to define one national set of criteria for providing outcome-orientated and results-based care in the treatment of addiction. ASAM criteria is the most widely used and comprehensive set of guidelines for placement, continued stay and transfer/discharge of patients with addiction and co-occurring conditions. ASAM criteria uses six dimensions to create a holistic assessment of an individual to use for treatment across all levels of care.

### **3. What is the 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Waiver?**

Indiana Medicaid has provided a broad range of services for people struggling with opioids or other addiction. In order to account for the entire continuum of substance use disorder treatment, Indiana Medicaid pursued an 1115 Substance Use Disorder demonstration waiver with the federal government. This allows the program to reimburse additional services or settings that would normally not be available to Medicaid members.

Indiana Medicaid's 1115 SUD demonstration provides reimbursement for three critical gaps in coverage:

- Expanded inpatient SUD treatment in facilities that qualify as institutions for mental disease (IMDs) \*An IMD is defined as a hospital, nursing facility, or other institution of more than 16 beds that is primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services.
- Residential SUD treatment in both IMD and non-IMD settings
- Expanded addiction recovery management services, including the usage of peer recovery specialists (available later in 2018)

These services will be available to most Traditional Medicaid members as well as HIP, Hoosier Care Connect, and Hoosier Healthwise members.

**4. What is ASAM designation? Why is it relevant to addiction residential treatment facilities?**

Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) Bulletin (BT201801) describes the new ASAM facility assignment process and why it is required. Indiana Medicaid in collaboration with the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction has developed a process to designate addiction residential treatment providers at a Level 3.1 (Low-Intensity) or 3.5 (High-Intensity) Residential Services.

As part of this designation process, DMHA has developed a self-assessment application that includes the elements that define Levels 3.1 through 3.5. Part of the ASAM designation application process is a site visit from DMHA. This visit will help ensure facilities are capable of delivering care consistent with ASAM Criteria. After the ASAM designation application process, if approved, the facility will be given a designation and a new certification will be issued with the designation included.

**5. Is there a fee involved with acquiring an ASAM designation for certified Residential Treatment Facilities?**

No.

**6. Will the ASAM designation for certified residential treatment facilities be added to the initial provider application?**

All facilities will receive the ASAM designation process as part of the initial provider application and will be a requirement for facilities that want to be certified by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction. New facilities must have a site visit by DMHA staff prior to certification and ASAM designation being issued.

**7. Should we wait until our certification renewal due date to submit the ASAM application?**

No, by July 1, 2018 all facilities seeking Indiana Medicaid reimbursement for residential SUD treatment must meet the following requirements:

- Obtain certification from DMHA as a Residential (Sub-Acute Stabilization) Facility
- Obtain a designation from DMHA indicating approval of offering ASAM Level 3.1 or Level 3.5 residential services
- Sign up under the new provider specialty and provider type have been created by Indiana Medicaid (see provider bulletin for more information)

**8. Can a residential treatment provider receive more than one DMHA ASAM designation?**

Yes, an addiction residential treatment facility with multiple units may have each unit designated a different level for ASAM. However, a unit cannot be both 3.1 and 3.5.

**9. Our addiction residential treatment provider was provided with an ASAM level designation of 3.1. How do we receive other designations?**

To receive other designations, the facility will need to add or increase services provided at the facility and then complete the DMHA ASAM application for review by DMHA. DMHA will review the completed application and will contact the provider to discuss any questions and schedule a site visit prior to issuing the new designations.

**10. I disagree with the DMHA ASAM designation given and believe that we qualify for a different designation. How do we resolve this?** As part of the ASAM designation process a conversation between DMHA and the provider will be held to discuss and determine the appropriate ASAM designation. During that conversation, DMHA will identify the gaps in receiving additional designations and the facility may address them if necessary. A new application can be completed once the new/additional services are in place for additional ASAM designations.

**11. Will DMHA be providing ASAM designations to any other DMHA certified facility categories?**

DMHA is providing ASAM designations of 3.1 and 3.5 to DMHA certified addiction residential treatment providers.

**12. Where will the per diem rates be posted?**

These will be posted on the fee schedule. The rates are as follows:

Level 3.1 – Low Intensity

- Adult - \$126.46 per day
- Child - \$130.37 per day

Level 3.5 – High Intensity

- Adult - \$361.65 per day
- Child - \$439.56 per day

**13. We offer withdrawal management at our addiction residential treatment facility, how does that affect our ASAM designation?**

Withdrawal management is not a service that contributes to ASAM designation levels 3.1 or 3.5. DMHA will not be designating facilities with the withdrawal management levels at this time.

In order to provide withdrawal management, providers must notify DMHA and the services must be overseen by a doctor or clinical nurse specialist.

**14. When does my designation expire?**

Your designation will expire on same date as your addiction residential certification.

**15. To whom do I submit my application?**

Please submit your application to:

Family and Social Services Administration  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction  
Certification and Licensure  
402 West Washington Street, Room W353  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739

**16. What is the difference between staff that are employed and staff that are contracted in the ASAM designation application?**

DMHA does not differentiate between employed or contracted staff.