

## Frequently Asked Questions – ASAM Criteria

### **What is ASAM?**

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The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) is a professional society representing over 3,600 physicians, clinicians, and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. To ensure that beneficiaries have access to the full continuum of care for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, the array of benefits offered through the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver are modeled after the ASAM criteria, which 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. DMC-ODS residential treatment providers must receive a DHCS issued ASAM designation prior to providing services to beneficiaries.

### **What are the Benefits of Using the ASAM Criteria?**

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- The ASAM Criteria was created to improve the quality of and access to addiction care, and is a proven model in the SUD field.
- The ASAM Criteria is a single, common standard for assessing patient needs, optimizing placement, determining medical necessity, and documenting the appropriateness of reimbursement.
- The ASAM Criteria provides a consensus based model of placement criteria and matches a patient’s severity of SUD illness within a treatment continuum including, Withdrawal Management, Early Intervention, Outpatient Services, Intensive Outpatient Services, Partial Hospitalization, and Residential Treatment.
- The principles, concepts, and criteria of the ASAM Criteria promote good stewardship of resource’s in the addiction, mental health, and general health care system.

### **What are ASAM Training Requirements?**

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Per DMC-ODS Standard Terms and Conditions, providers and staff conducting assessments, including those who anticipate using Continuum, are required to adhere to the following:

- ASAM criteria interviews must be conducted by LPHS’s or certified AOD counselors.
- Two e-training modules (“ASAM Multidimensional Assessment” and “From Assessment to Service Planning and Level of Care”).
- Attend State and County sponsored ASAM provider trainings as needed.
- Providers and staff must be able to document how they are implementing ASAM criteria, if a provider anticipates utilizing Continuum (In WITs), they must meet Marin County’s minimum training compliance.

### **When is ASAM Criteria Required?**

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- ASAM criteria are required to be utilized upon admission to treatment to ensure that clients are engaged in the appropriate level of care.
- Re-assessments are required to be completed at a minimum of every 90 days, unless there are significant changes warranting more frequent re-assessments (ex: achieving treatment plan goals, lack of progress on treatment plan goals, identification or intensification of new problems that cannot be addressed at current level of care, and at the request of the beneficiary).

## Resources and References

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1. [https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2015\\_06/asam\\_webinar\\_6\\_10\\_15.pdf](https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2015_06/asam_webinar_6_10_15.pdf)Point of Service (POS) Device: - ASAM PowerPoint Presentation
2. [http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/11.10.15\\_Revised\\_ASAM\\_FACT\\_SHEET.p  
df](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/11.10.15_Revised_ASAM_FACT_SHEET.pdf)- ASAM DHCS FAQ Sheet
3. [https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2015\\_08/final\\_dmc-  
ods\\_stcs.pdf](https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/servicepages/2015_08/final_dmc-ods_stcs.pdf)- DMC ODS Standard Terms and Conditions, page 33
4. For ASAM e-training enrollment, contact Leigh Steffy: [LSteffy@marincounty.org](mailto:LSteffy@marincounty.org)