



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

Implementing *The ASAM Criteria* in Utilization Review and Management

- **Who Should Take the Course?** [This Course](#) was created specifically for those involved in Utilization Review and Management. We also encourage providers to take this training as it provides an essential understanding of the UM process.
- **Why Should They Take the Course?** The Course is designed to help managed care payers develop a holistic understanding of The ASAM Criteria and their role in constructing a full range of services for patients with substance use disorders (SUD). Through interactive and case-based activities, the course covers the process of conducting objective clinical case reviews, evaluating treatment plans, and determining the appropriate level of care in accordance with The ASAM Criteria. As increasing numbers of managed care companies, utilization management entities, and providers of care use The ASAM Criteria to guide level of care decisions, the opportunity for differences in interpretation and implementation also increases. Therefore, it is increasingly incumbent on all parties (clinicians, provider organizations, care managers, and payers) to manage care with clinical and fiscal integrity, in accordance with The ASAM Criteria. This course is designed to help managed care payers develop a holistic understanding of The ASAM Criteria and their role in constructing a full range of services for patients with substance use disorders (SUD).
- **What Formats are the Course Available in?** The 8-Hour training is fully On-Demand. This online course is fully online and self-paced. The course content, learning activities, and assessments in the course should be completed asynchronously—you will log into the course site and complete them at your own pace. The course will take approximately 8-10 hours to complete.
- **What Credits are Available for the Course?** The On-Demand Training is accredited by NAADAC and CME.

Implementing the ASAM Criteria in Utilization Review and Management Module Breakdown:

Module 1: Using The ASAM Criteria in Utilization Management

- Guiding principles of the ASAM Criteria - From the payer perspective
- Evidence-based patient care decisions
- Utilization Management (UM) process in the context of addiction and the ASAM Criteria
- Core pillars of the ASAM Criteria implementation
- Considerations in Patient Care Decisions
- Role of payers , Providers, Payers, State
- Collaboration between providers and payers
- Medical necessity versus benefit coverage
- Payer decision-making process (broader process overview)



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Module 2: Conducting Initial Clinical Case Reviews

- Overview and rationale of each dimension in the ASAM Criteria
- ASAM Decisional Flow (Admission Criteria)
- Determining multiple risk ratings
- The Five M's of treatment planning
- Imminent danger and immediate needs
- Challenges associated with assessing Dimensions 4-6
- Provider and Payer Team Members
- Steps involved in the clinical case review process
 - Provider must complete a biopsychosocial assessment
 - Six-dimensional assessment and risk rating
 - ASAM Criteria decisional flow to match assessment and treatment/placement
 - Provider places request for SUD treatment
 - Clinicals are presented by the provider to payer
 - Provider requests a benefit review
 - Payer reviews clinical info and requests LOC
 - If info supports ASAM LOC, a reasonable duration of service, authorization granted
- Duration of Service
- Denials
 - Peer Review
 - Review of providers role
 - Review of Payers Role
- Ensuring Objectivity and Fidelity
- Writing a Benefit Letter
 - Sample Approval
 - Sample Denial
- Case Exercise
 - Providers submission

Module 3: Individualized Treatment Plan:

- Fixed Interval, program driven treatment to clinically-driven individualized treatment
- The New Paradigm- ASAM Criteria Decisional Flow
- SUD Treatment Plan
- 7 Parts of the Substance Use Disorder ITP
- Review Progress, Non-progress and new problems
- Individualized Treatment Plan and Case Shaping
- Physician Chart Review template



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Module 4: Continued Service and Transfer/Discharge Criteria

- Continued Service Criteria
- Transfer/Discharge Criteria
- Discharge plan
 - Defining key elements and considerations
 - Case Shaping- from admission to discharge
- Provider Request
 - Templates
- Payer Review
 - Look for red flags, do fidelity check
 - Look for lack of a goal starting date and target date
 - All objective target dates are the same
 - Interventions as concrete actions
 - Documentation in the treatment plan review
- Final Decisions

Module 5: Becoming Proficient in Utilization Management Using The ASAM Criteria

- Module Overview
- Templates and Charts
 - Use Case for Templates (PDFs)
 - Benchmark LOC with Service & Intensity
 - Decisional Flow Template
- Considerations for Approving Length of Stay
 - Determining the appropriate length of stay after LoCC is approved
 - Approval of LoC doesn't versus the requested length of stay
 - Review of the Treatment Plan—overall goal, measurable objectives, target dates
 - Moving away from pre-determined lengths of intervals, to clinically-determined
 - Opportunities for case shaping/program shaping
- Cross-dimensional Interactivity
 - Template by Dr. Pelt
- Provider submission requirements
 - Requirements for treatment plan
 - Why these elements are crucial to assess progress versus nonprogress
- Case Exercise: Fidelity Checks
 - Admission process
 - Continued stay process
 - Discharge/Transfer process
 - Opportunity for case shaping and program shaping
- Course summary