

ASAM Criteria 4th Edition Resources

Tools and information to help you understand the ASAM Criteria 4th Edition change and adjust your protocols and processes accordingly

Overview

During the remainder of 2024 and throughout 2025, Optum Behavioral Health is rolling out contracting and clinical guideline changes for facilities and agencies that treat adults with addiction. These changes will align our clinical guidelines and benefits with the updated [ASAM Criteria 4th Edition](#). The change apply only to services rendered to members ages 18 and older. Services for children and adolescents will continue to follow *ASAM Criteria 3rd edition*.



Optum Behavioral Health [Quick Reference Guide](#) – outlines the most significant changes you should be aware of.



[Frequently Asked Questions](#) – Additional information and insight about the Optum Behavioral Health implementation of the 4th Edition Criteria.



ASAM Implementation Tools – A variety of tools design to help clinicians, payers and others effectively implement *The ASAM Criteria 4th edition*, including:



A set of 300+ slides on the ASAM Criteria, Fourth Edition is publicly available. To request the slides, accept [ASAM's terms and conditions](#).



Criteria Training – Live and on-demand training is available through ASAM and the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation.

- **[4th Edition Foundation Course](#)**: This 4-hour online course helps clinicians develop patient-centered service plans and make objective decisions during the level of care and treatment planning assessments.
- **[Understand the 4th Edition and its Clinical Application](#)**: Offered by the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, this 2-day virtual course reviews the updated criteria in detail. Significant time is allotted to practice applying the core components in diverse scenarios. CE and CMEs available



[The ASAM Criteria Navigator](#) – ASAM has partnered with Change Healthcare to develop software for using The ASAM Criteria in utilization review and management workflows.



[ASAM Continuum](#) – a comprehensive electronic assessment tool to assess individuals with addictive substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions. The tool leverages a computerized clinical decision support system to make level of care recommendations.



[ASAM Co-Triage](#) – a computer-guided provisional referral tool designed to generate an initial level of care placement for individuals with substance use problems.

Questions?

To support your implementation of the updated criteria, [you can purchase](#) a digital or print copy of *The ASAM Criteria 4th Edition*. For questions specific to the criteria, please [contact ASAM](#).

For questions related to your Optum Behavioral Health contract, please [contact](#) your Provider Relations Advocate or your Network Management representative.