

ASAM Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient/Federally Qualified Health Center Assessments

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) and Behavioral Health Special Initiative (BHSI) transitioned to the use of American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria for Level of Care (LOC) determinations on January 1, 2019, to align with the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) transition from Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria (PCPC) to ASAM criteria. As a part of this transition, outpatient providers are expected to facilitate direct admissions into other programs, particularly bed-based programs. Providers are encouraged to review the ASAM Performance Standards for each LOC, specifically, Section Five concerning assessments:

“Throughout the course of treatment, providers must regularly reevaluate that a member is in the most appropriate Level of Care (LOC). If it is determined that a member requires a higher or lower LOC, the provider is responsible for contacting the CBH PES line to present the member for the most appropriate LOC, and/or refer to a new treatment provider to ensure continuity of care. (Providers are expected to facilitate warm handoffs to providers offering higher or lower LOCs when necessary.)”

Therefore, members who are assessed at a provider should not be sent to a Crisis Response Center (CRC) or NET Assessment Center for referrals to higher or lower LOCs.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned CBH Provider Relations Representative.