

ASAM 3.5 Utilization Review Parameters

This bulletin is an update to [Provider Bulletin 22-13: ASAM 3.5 and 3.7 Utilization Review Parameters](#) issued on June 1, 2022 to inform providers of changes in requirements and utilization review parameters for American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 3.5 levels of care (LOC).

Effective April 1, 2025, CBH will implement the following changes to the initial and concurrent utilization review processes for ASAM 3.5 LOC.

ASAM 3.5

Crisis Response Centers and other referral sources will complete an ASAM assessment and work directly with 3.5 providers to admit members who meet criteria for 3.5 LOC.

- ➔ Referral sources should continue to contact CBH Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) team at 215.413.7171 for treatment history and bed availability to facilitate assessment and admission.
- ➔ Admitting providers will continue to review the ASAM assessment completed by the referral source when making admission decisions.

CBH will no longer generate an authorization to the admitting provider upon the member's arrival. Authorizations will be issued by CBH as follows:

- ➔ An ASAM trained clinician at the admitting provider will evaluate the member within 72 hours of admission and confirm that they meet criteria for ASAM 3.5.
- ➔ The admitting provider will use the CBH provider portal to submit an ASAM assessment to the PES team which must include the following information:
 - » Presenting problem and referring provider
 - » ASAM Dimensions 1 – 6 with associated risk levels
 - ➔ Dimension 1: Acute intoxication and/or withdrawal potential. Exploring and assessing the current and past use of substances, as well as the history of withdrawal. This includes any withdrawal assessment scores and laboratory results

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- ➔ Dimension 2: Biomedical conditions and complications, which explores a person's medical needs and health history
- ➔ Dimension 3: Emotional, behavioral, or cognitive conditions and complications. This includes any active psychiatric symptoms, psychiatric history, and trauma related needs
- ➔ Dimension 4: Readiness to change. Determining a person's willingness and readiness to change their substance use
- ➔ Dimension 5: Relapse, continued use, or continued problem potential. Assessing a person's individual needs that can influence their potential to relapse, including history of relapses
- ➔ Dimension 6: Recovery environment. Assessing how a person's living situation can help or hinder their efforts at recovery
- ➔ Documented conversation of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) with member
- ➔ Assessment completed by (including credentials) with the level of care requested

CBH will generate a retroactive authorization reflecting the date of admission to the date the ASAM assessment was submitted, for no more than three (3) days.

CBH will then review the ASAM assessment to ensure medical necessity is met for continued ASAM 3.5. If medical necessity is met, CBH will generate additional time based on the authorization threshold below. If medical necessity is not met, CBH will issue a denial and may refer the case for retrospective review.

If the ASAM trained clinician at the admitting provider determines, upon completion of the ASAM assessment that the member meets criteria for a different LOC, they should contact the PES line to obtain authorization for the initial stay in 3.5 and complete pre-certification as needed for alternative treatment.

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Authorization Thresholds

- ➔ If the member is 18 or older and has received treatment in an acute service within the past 30 days, the member will be approved for up to seven (7) days of additional treatment, for a total of up to 10 days of continued 3.5.
 - » Acute Services impacting the default length of initial authorization include AIP, SubAcute Inpatient (SAIP), Extended Acute Care (EAC), Crisis Residence, 4WM, 4, 3.7WM, 3.5, 3.7, 3.1
 - » An information share with your CBH care manager is required within the first five (5) days of treatment for these members.
 - » Subsequent requests for continued stay will be authorized for up to 10 days if the member continues to meet ASAM criteria.
- ➔ If the member is 18 or older and has not received treatment in an acute service within the past 30 days, the member will be approved for up to 12 days of additional treatment, for a total of up to 15 days of initial 3.5.
- ➔ Subsequent requests for continued stay will be authorized for up to 15 days if the member continues to meet ASAM criteria.

Please direct questions about prior authorization or utilization review to [Marta Warner](#), Clinical Director for Adult Services.

Resources to support providers in accessing and using the [CBH Provider Portal](#) are available or by contacting [CBH Provider Portal Support](#).