
To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

Date: April 13, 2026

Subject: [Informational Bulletin 24-2: ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services \(Revised April 9, 2026\)](#)

Informational Bulletins that summarize policies and/or procedures are intended for quick reference and are accurate on the date they are issued.

ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana would like to inform you that the Louisiana Department of Health has made revisions to the previously published Informational Bulletin 24-2: ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services.

The revisions are underlined, and the deleted text is noted in strikethrough.

ASAM Criteria Updates for Adult Substance Use Services

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) periodically updates the standards of care delineated in the ASAM criteria for the treatment of substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions. Louisiana uses ASAM criteria to establish Medicaid treatment guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence. On October 5, 2023, Hazelden Betty Ford released the digital version of The ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition, Volume 1 for adults, which revised certain standards and levels of care for serving the adult population.

The revisions included in this updated edition will be adopted in 2026, and will require numerous changes to Louisiana documents, inclusive of the Medicaid State Plan, Behavioral Health Service Providers licensing rule, and the Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual. The Office of Behavioral Health is drafting the necessary changes to rules, regulations and policies to align with Volume 1 of The ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition for adults and is partnering with the Medicaid managed care organizations (MCO) to plan for operational implementation of the updated criteria.

Transition to evidence-based practice standards in the ASAM Criteria – 4th Edition for Adults for various levels of care is scheduled for 2026, with providers required to be in full compliance with revised rules, regulations, and Medicaid policy criteria by July 1, 2026. The updated Medicaid fee schedule, reflective of associated rate increases, went into effect January 1, 2026. Providers may review [Medicaid Informational Bulletin 25-31](#) and the [Specialized Behavioral Health Fee Schedule](#) for more information.

Providers are encouraged to begin preparations now to comply with revisions included in the [Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual](#). ~~Please check with the~~ The Medicaid managed care organizations have developed a series of for available ASAM 4th Edition Trainings opportunities scheduled to begin in March and conclude in May. Contact the MCOs for further information on how to access the training series.

The digital and print versions are now available for purchase from Hazelden Publishing:
<https://discover.hazeldenbettyford.org/>.

For additional details, including a list of upcoming scheduled trainings, please see the previously shared provider alert [ASAM 4th Edition Training](#)