



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) American Society of Addiction
Medicine (ASAM) Designation Questionnaire**
Frequently Asked Questions
September 2016

The following answers to frequently asked questions intend to provide clarification regarding residential treatment services available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Pilot Program counties.

This document will be updated as necessary.

For more information on the ASAM Designation process:

- See Information Notice 15-035
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MHSUDS_Information_Notice_15-035_ASAM_Designation_8.27.pdf

For additional information regarding the DMC-ODS Pilot Program:

- Visit <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Drug-Medi-Cal-Organized-Delivery-System.aspx>
- Contact us at DMCODSWAIVER@dhcs.ca.gov

1. What is ASAM?

Founded in 1954, ASAM is a professional society representing over 3,600 physicians, clinicians and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction.

2. What is the ASAM Criteria?

ASAM's criteria, formerly known as the ASAM patient placement criteria, is the result of a collaboration that began in the 1980s to define one national set of criteria for providing outcome-orientated and results-based care in the treatment of addiction. The ASAM criteria is most widely used and comprehensive set of guidelines for placement, continued stay and transfer/discharge of patients with addiction and co-occurring conditions.

3. What is DHCS ASAM designation?

DHCS Information Notice 15-035

(http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MHSUDS_Information_Note_15-035_ASAM_Designation_8.27.pdf), dated August 26, 2015, describes the DHCS ASAM designation program and why it is required. In summary, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires all residential providers to meet the ASAM requirements and obtain a DHCS-issued ASAM designation as part of their participation in the DMC-ODS Pilot Program.

DHCS has developed a designation program to certify that all providers of Level 3.1 through 3.5 Residential/Inpatient Services are capable of delivering care consistent with ASAM Criteria.

4. What is the process to receive ASAM designation?

DHCS has developed a self-assessment questionnaire that includes the elements that define Levels 3.1 through 3.5. After completion of the DHCS ASAM designation questionnaire, DHCS reviews the questionnaire, staffing, and services provided at the facility. DHCS then determines the provisional designation. The facility has the opportunity to review the decision and provide additional information that may impact the designations issued. The provisional status of the DHCS ASAM designation will remain on the residential treatment provider license until verification of the designation(s) is completed during an on-site visit.

DHCS is currently working on integrating the ASAM designation process into the initial licensing process, so that all residential providers receive an ASAM designation when obtaining a license. Eventually, the DHCS ASAM designation will be added to the initial treatment provider application (DHCS 6002) and will be a requirement for facilities that want to be licensed by DHCS.

5. Is there a fee required to receive a DHCS ASAM designation for DHCS licensed residential treatment facilities?

No. Currently, there is no fee required to receive a DHCS ASAM designation.

6. Can a residential treatment facility receive more than one DHCS ASAM designation?

Yes. A residential facility may have up to three designations: ASAM Level 3.1, 3.3, and/or 3.5, depending on the services provided.

7. Are residential treatment facilities required to participate in the DMC-ODS Pilot Program in order to obtain a DHCS ASAM designation?

No. Residential treatment facilities are not required to provide services as part of the DMC-ODS Pilot Program in order to obtain an ASAM designation. DHCS has developed a designation program to certify that all providers of ASAM Levels 3.1 through 3.5 Residential/Inpatient Services are capable of delivering care consistent with ASAM Criteria.

8. Do facilities need to wait until their biennial renewal due date to submit the DHCS ASAM Questionnaire?

No. DHCS will be processing DHCS ASAM designations according to the regional phases identified by the DMC-ODS. Facilities can be processed ahead of their regional phase, with priority being given to the regions as follows:

1. Phase One - Bay Area - Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma.
2. Phase Two – Kern and Southern California - Kern, Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura
3. Phase Three – Central and Northern California - Calaveras, Eldorado, Fresno Inyo, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mono, Placer, Sacramento, Stanislaus, Yolo, San Joaquin, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yuba.
4. Phase Four – Northern California – Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity.
5. Phase Five – Tribal Partners

9. If a residential treatment facility received a DHCS ASAM level designation of 3.1, what is the process for receiving other designations?

To receive other designations, the residential treatment facility will need to add or increase services provided at the facility and then complete the DHCS ASAM questionnaire for review by DHCS. DHCS will review the completed questionnaire and will contact the provider to discuss the new questionnaire prior to issuing the new designations.

10. Why do residential treatment facilities receive a provisional designation after completing the DHCS ASAM designation questionnaire?

After completion of the DHCS ASAM designation questionnaire, each facility is given a provisional designation. This designation is provisional because it is based on the self-assessment questionnaire and conversations with the residential treatment facility. In order to provide a non-provisional designation, DHCS will need to conduct an on-site review of the facility to verify that the facility is capable of delivering care consistent with the ASAM treatment criteria for the relevant ASAM designation levels. The provisional status of the DHCS ASAM designation will remain on the residential treatment facility license until verification of the designation(s) is

completed during an on-site visit. Once verified, the residential treatment facility license will be revised to reflect the non-provisional ASAM designation(s).

11. What is the resolution process for residential treatment facilities that disagree with the results of the DHCS ASAM provisional designation?

As part of the DHCS ASAM designation process, a conversation between DHCS and the provider will be held to discuss and determine the appropriate DHCS ASAM designation. During that conversation, DHCS will identify the gaps in receiving additional designations and the facility may address them if necessary. A new questionnaire can be completed once the new/additional services are in place for additional DHCS ASAM designations.

12. Will DHCS be providing ASAM designations to any other DHCS licensed or certified facility categories, other than residential treatment facilities?

No, not at this time. DHCS is only providing ASAM designations to DHCS licensed residential treatment facilities that also have DMC certification.

13. Does DHCS issue ASAM designations for residential treatment facilities at levels 3.7 or 4.0?

No, not at this time.

14. Does being a DHCS-licensed residential detoxification facility factor into the ASAM designation process?

No. Detoxification is not a service that contributes to ASAM designation levels 3.1, 3.3, or 3.5 and DHCS will not be designating facilities with withdrawal management levels at this time.