

December 2019

Substance use disorder criteria and prior authorization

Background: Effective November 25, 2019, Healthy Blue will issue Louisiana-specific substance use disorder (SUD) criteria for prior authorizations (PA) to align its utilization management (UM) criteria with Louisiana-specific American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) levels of care. This alignment will augment Healthy Blue's capacity to effectively provide managed care UM oversight for this service with its distinct levels of care.

The *Addiction Services* section of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) ***Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual*** is the basis for all medically necessary decisions in Louisiana.

- As set forth in the *Addiction Services* section of the manual, the use of the ASAM substance use criteria for medical necessity in Louisiana is required.
- Furthermore, regarding withdrawal management and other dimensions for determining the appropriate level of care, the manual states that these Louisiana-specific ASAM clinical criteria are to be used to determine medical necessity for a given level of care.
 - This applies to withdrawal management services and the other level of care dimensions requested by the provider and/or member for the identified levels of care.

Why is this change necessary?

This change aligns Healthy Blue's SUD criteria with the requirements outlined in LDH's *Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual*. In the manual, Louisiana Medicaid uses ASAM levels of care that are specific to Louisiana SUD services.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**.

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