

MEDICAL POLICY

Medical Policy Title	Partial Hospitalization for Substance Use Disorders
Policy Number	3.01.18
Current Effective Date	August 22, 2024
Next Review Date	August 2025

Our medical policies are based on the assessment of evidence based, peer-reviewed literature, and professional guidelines. Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract. (Link to [Product Disclaimer](#))

POLICY STATEMENT(S)

- I. Effective September 1, 2016, the Health Plan began using the Level of Care Determination (LOCADTR) 3.0 Tool, developed by the New York State (NYS) Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), to define and review all levels of care for substance use disorder (SUD) that are addressed in LOCADTR.

To define and review the SUD partial hospitalization program (PHP) level of care (which is not a service currently addressed in LOCADTR 3.0), the Health Plan utilizes the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) definition of SUD PHP (also referred to as high-intensity outpatient [HIOP]) in terms of intensity of services, provider types, etc. for both adults and adolescents and applies ASAM's related level 2.5 criteria to evaluate medical necessity of the PHP services.
- II. For SUD PHP services to be considered **medically necessary**, the following ASAM criteria must be met:
 - A. Admission Criteria
 1. The individual must be evaluated by a licensed clinician and meet the criteria for substance use diagnosis/disorder in the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition, text revision (DSM-5-TR), which includes dysfunction due to acute symptomatology requiring a medically supervised intervention to achieve stabilization. The evaluation must include psychiatric and medical assessment. Information for the assessment may also be obtained from a significant other, family member, and/or other important resource.
 2. The level of care requested for the individual is SUD PHP, and ASAM 2.5 criteria have been satisfied.
 3. The individual's medical/withdrawal symptoms may include, but are not limited to, mild-to-moderate symptoms that can be managed in a PHP for SUD, as long as the program has adequate nursing/protocol/medical staffing for safety and all other ASAM 2.5 criteria have been met.
 - B. Continuing Stay Criteria (concurrent review)
 1. Continuing stay for PHP level of care is appropriate where ASAM 2.5 criteria are satisfied and daily clinical assessment is documented, with the following services being performed on a weekly basis and addressed in the documentation:

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- a. SUD evaluation; and
 - b. Medication evaluation and initiation of any necessary medication-assisted treatment while member is in this level of care with significant supervision.
- C. Discharge Criteria
1. The care no longer meets ASAM 2.5 criteria and/or member goals are completed.

RELATED POLICIES

Corporate Medical Policy

2.02.50 Urine Drug Testing

POLICY GUIDELINE(S)

- I. PHP for SUD is a clinical, diagnostic, and treatment program offered on an outpatient basis, for higher acuity and intensity of services than an intensive outpatient program (IOP) in terms of numbers of days per week and intensity of the daily programming (typically at least 20 hours per week).
- II. PHP for SUD is highly structured for individuals who do not need the more restrictive and intensive living environment of a 24-hour inpatient setting; but who do need the higher intensity treatment services offered in a PHP. This is a time-limited program to stabilize acute symptoms.
- III. Staffing and program requirements apply, as set forth in ASAM 2.5, to ensure that programs have the ability to manage mild-to-moderate co-occurring mental health issues, as well as withdrawal.
- IV. Urine drug screening (UDS) as part of treatment should occur as clinically indicated.

DESCRIPTION

SUD is characterized by cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms related to a maladaptive pattern of behaviors associated with the use of the substance(s). SUDs range in severity, due to the symptom presentation of each individual. The severity and symptoms of SUD are classified in the DSM-5-TR.

SUPPORTIVE LITERATURE

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

PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE(S)

Not applicable

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REGULATORY STATUS

Refer to Policy Statement I.

CODE(S)

- Codes may not be covered under all circumstances.
- Code list may not be all inclusive (AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates).
- (E/I)=Experimental/Investigational
- (NMN)=Not medically necessary/appropriate

CPT Codes

Code	Description
Multiple	

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HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
S0201	Partial hospitalization service, less than 24 hours, per diem

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
Multiple	

REFERENCES

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) [Internet]. The ASAM Criteria [accessed 2025 Feb 3]. Available from: <https://www.asam.org/asam-criteria>

American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR). Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2022.

New York State Office of Mental Health Regulations for a PHP, Section 587.12 Partial hospitalization programs.

The Office of Addiction Services and Supports [Internet]. Level of care for alcohol and drug treatment referral (LOCADTR) and LOCADTR for gambling treatment [accessed 2025 Feb 3]. Available from: <https://oasas.ny.gov/locadtr>

Waller, R. C., Boyle, M. P., Daviss, S. R., et al, eds. The ASAM Criteria: Treatment Criteria for Addictive, Substance-Related, and Co-occurring Conditions. 4th ed. Hazelden Publishing; 2023.

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SEARCH TERMS

Not applicable

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)

[Treatment of Drug Abuse \(Chemical Dependency\) \(NCD 130.6\)](#). Website accessed 02/03/25.

[Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Programs \(LCD L33626\)](#). Website accessed 02/03/25.

PRODUCT DISCLAIMER

- Services are contract dependent; if a product does not cover a service, medical policy criteria do not apply.
- If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product) covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.
- If a Medicaid product covers a specific service, and there are no New York State Medicaid guidelines (eMedNY) criteria, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.
- If a Medicare product (including Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product) covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.
- If a Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product DOES NOT cover a specific service, please refer to the Medicaid Product coverage line.

POLICY HISTORY/REVISION

Committee Approval Dates

08/25/17, 10/25/18, 08/22/19, 08/27/20, 08/19/21, 08/18/22, 08/17/23, 08/22/24

Date	Summary of Changes
02/03/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Off-cycle policy edit to include ASAM 4th edition terminology, high-intensity outpatient, and reference. Policy intent unchanged.
01/01/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of changes tracking implemented.
08/25/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Original effective date