

Beneficiary Access Line Definitions

Admission: The point in an individual's relationship with an organized treatment service when the intake process has been completed, an individual has been determined to be eligible to receive services, and he/she accepts these services and enters treatment.

Adult: an individual aged 18 and above.

ASAM: the American Society of Addiction Medicine. ASAM is the professional society representing physicians and associated professionals dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment.

ASAM Criteria: a set of guidelines developed by ASAM for assessing and making placement decisions for patients with addiction and co-occurring conditions.

Benefit Package: the various treatment services available to individuals with substance use disorders (i.e., withdrawal management, opioid treatment programs, residential treatment, intensive outpatient, outpatient, recovery support services).

Brief Triage Assessment: the first stage of screening based on ASAM Criteria that an individual calling the BAL or walking into a treatment provider receives to establish the provisional level of care placement.

Care Coordination: the deliberate organization of patient care activities between two or more participants, including the patient, involved in a patient's care to facilitate the appropriate delivery of health care services.

Certified Substance Use Disorder Counselor: an individual who has been certified by one of three National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredited organizations recognized by the California Department of Health Care Services, including California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators (CAADE), California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) and California Association of DUI Treatment Programs (CADTP), to provide counseling services including intake, service needs assessment, treatment planning, recovery planning, and individual or group counseling for alcohol and other drug program patients.

Continuum of Care: a concept involving an integrated system of care that guides and tracks patients over time through a comprehensive array of health services spanning all levels and intensities of care.

Full ASAM Assessment: an extensive biopsychosocial clinical assessment using a standardized tool based on the ASAM Criteria to establish and/or confirm the appropriate level of care placement as conducted at the qualified network provider site.

Medi-Cal Eligibility: an entitlement to receive health care services, including SUD services, in California for individuals with annual personal or family income that is up to 138 percent of federal poverty level. Individuals who are 65 or older, blind, disabled, under 21 years old, pregnant, in a skilled nursing facility, on refugee status, screened for breast and/or cervical

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cancer; or who are enrolled in CalFresh, CalWorks, Refugee Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, or Foster Care/Adoption Assistance Program may likewise be eligible for Medi-Cal.

Medical Necessity Criteria: a definition of accepted health care services that involves diagnosis, impairment, and intervention. Medical necessity in Los Angeles County requires that individuals have at least one diagnosis from the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders. The service must also meet a recommended level of intervention consistent with the current edition of the American Society of Addiction Medicine placement guidelines, including consideration of biopsychosocial severity.

Message System: refers to mechanisms where calls to the BAL that are made after business hours, on weekends and holidays could be recorded or received.

Network Provider: SAPC-contracted substance use disorder treatment providers.

Patient: an individual who receives treatment for alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drug or addictive behavior problems. The terms “client” and “patient” sometimes are used interchangeably, although staff in medical settings more commonly use “patient,” while staff in non-medical residential, outpatient, and publicly funded treatment settings often use “client.”

Provisional Level of Care (LOC): the temporary assignment of an adult patient to a particular treatment modality after a brief triage assessment has been conducted, which will be confirmed or modified after a full ASAM assessment has been conducted at a network provider site.

Residential Treatment: an ASAM level of care providing 24-hour planned and structured regimen of care for patients in need of safe and stable living environment that are conducive for developing, practicing and demonstrating recovery skills in order to avoid immediate relapse to substance use and addictive behaviors.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD): marked by a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that the individual continues to use alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs despite significant related problems. It is the new term for what previously included “substance dependence” and “substance abuse” of the American Psychiatric Association.

Treatment: application of planned procedures to identify and change patterns of behavior that are maladaptive, destructive, and/or injurious to health; or to restore appropriate levels of physical, psychological, and/or social functioning.

Warm Hand-off: the practice of coordinating patient care from one provider or treatment professional/staff to another while the patient is within the treatment system in order to help ensure that patient receives the full set of services intended to guide him or her to recovery.

Young Adult: an individual aged 18 through 25.

Youth: an individual aged 12 through 17.

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Youth Screener: a brief behavioral health questionnaire for use with youth under the age of 18 to screen adolescents for high risk of alcohol and other drug use, including marijuana, disorders. The youth screener is designed to assess whether a caller would benefit from a referrals to a SUC provider for further assessment and substance abuse treatment.