

SAPC Information Notice 24-01

Attachment C: Patient Eligibility for Addiction Medications

Each SAPC contracted treatment agency shall obtain a history from each patient that includes identifying which substances are impacting that patient's health and well-being during intake. For each patient who indicates use of a substance corresponding with substance use disorders (SUD) described below, agency practitioners shall assess which criteria from the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) criteria are present.

The DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria Checklist is the evidence-based assessment for agency addiction medication services policies. This checklist may be conducted by any practitioners whose scope of practice includes conducting screenings and assessments. See Table 1 for the checklist of DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria for substance-related and addictive disorders. However, the full ASAM assessment (both the *electronic ASAM CONTINUUM* and the full paper-based ASAM) include DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria, and a separate DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria assessment is not required when the Drug and Alcohol Section of the ASAM Assessment has been completed.

When the DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria Checklist indicates that a substance use disorder below may be present, an agency LPHA, shall confirm which SUDs are present within the first twenty-four (24) hours of the initial date of service.

Patients with any of the three SUDs listed below shall be offered (directly or through referral) an addiction medication evaluation by a medical LPHA operating within the scope of practice of their license (licensed prescribing clinician), and through which the patient can receive treatment with the appropriate addiction medication (described within **Attachment B**). The plan for the addiction medication evaluation must be in place within 48 hours of the initial date of service, but the evaluation does not need to have been completed within this timeframe. Patients with opioid use disorder who indicate a preference for treatment with methadone shall be referred to an Opioid Treatment Program to receive their addiction medication evaluation. See **Attachment F** for additional information about accessing addiction medication evaluations in Los Angeles County.

SUDs Which Require Offering the Patient an Evaluation by a Licensed Prescribing Clinician

- Opioid Use Disorder
- Alcohol Use Disorder
- Tobacco Use Disorder

SAPC also recommends that patients with cannabis use disorder, stimulant use disorder (methamphetamine type), and cocaine use disorder also be offered an evaluation licensed prescribing clinician to consider treatment with the medications described within **Attachment B**.

Table 1: DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria Checklist

Substance use disorders are assessed per substance and therefore each substance should be assessed separately to determine which specific SUDs may be present. SUDs are a problematic pattern of substance use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by at least two of the following, occurring within a 12-month period:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Substances are often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down on or control substance use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain substances, use substances, or recover from their effects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use substances.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recurrent substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill rote obligations at work, school, or home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of substances.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of substance use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recurrent substance use in situations in which it is physically hazardous.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued substance use despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by the substance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tolerance, as defined by either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a need for markedly increased amounts of substances to achieve intoxication or desired effect b. a markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of a substance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal, as manifested by either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the characteristic substance withdrawal syndrome b. The substance or a related substance are taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Source:

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed., text rev.). <http://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425787>