

## May 5 Webinar Follow-Up Questions & Answers

**Q1.** *Should Recovery Coaches be using ASAM criteria or given they seem targeted toward clinicians and other professionals, is it beyond the scope? Also, should Certified Recovery Support Workers (CRSWs) or those working toward their CRSWs be using this framework and tools?*

**A1.** Assessment, treatment planning, diagnosis, and patient placement would be outside the scope of a CRSW. However, just as it would be helpful for a licensed counselor to understand the CRSW's best practice, it can be advantageous for the CRSW to have a basic understanding of ASAM criteria. The hope being that CRSWs and LADCs will be working together moving forward with CRSWs included in the objectives of many treatment plans.

**Q2.** *Is software available to perform the ASAM assessment as presented? Also, does it merge with the WITS system?*

**Q2.** The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS) WITS does have the ASI and DENS built in allowing you to conduct the ASI assessment and to use the DENS to produce client-level and aggregate reports. You can also obtain a narrative report and problem list which can help with developing the treatment plan. BDAS is also looking into the feasibility of integrating ASAM's *Continuum* product. This would also allow you to conduct an assessment across all six ASAM dimensions, to determine the level of care, complete CIWA assessments, obtain ASI severity composite scores, and can help manage prior authorizations.

**Q3.** *Are insurance companies using ASAM criteria?*

**Q3.** Currently, some insurance companies are using ASAM criteria. With the passing of [Senate Bill 576](#), beginning January 2017, "Whenever substance use disorder services are a covered benefit under a health benefit plan subject to this chapter, the health carrier providing such benefits shall rely upon ASAM criteria when determining medical necessity and developing utilization review standards for levels of care for substance use disorder services."

**Q4.** *How do you utilize the ASI and the ASAM criteria together?*

**Q4.** Utilize the ASI to gather information about a patient's physical, mental, and emotional status; behaviors, including the quantity and frequency of substances being misused; and other information. Ask additional questions to further understand the patient's health status, the severity of his/her SUD and co-occurring mental health conditions, and the aspects of the person's environment and responsibilities that may affect the approach to treatment. Tool 1 may be used to identify additional questions not obtained from the ASI or you can develop your own set of additional questions.