

August 4, 2016 ASAM Criteria Webinar Questions & Answers

Q1. Does ASAM criteria only apply to admission into a level of care?

A1. *Assessment is ongoing. ASAM criteria should be utilized over the course of the treatment episode and will be necessary for making continuing care, discharge or transfer decisions. It is important to continually assess the patient's severity rating across all six dimensions, especially for dimensions that are particularly high. As patient progress is assessed, in line with his/her treatment goals, any changes in severity across each dimension should be noted. For example, a patient may initially have high anxiety that may be related to their withdrawal and their concern regarding facing a probation violation but as withdrawal symptoms stabilize and probation issues are resolved, anxiety may decrease. Severity may be a 0 or 1 at this point. If the anxiety symptoms worsen, creating a new treatment plan or augmenting the current treatment plan may be necessary. For some dimensions rapid improvement may be seen as appropriate treatment is provided. In other cases the severity rating may increase.*

To assist with ongoing assessment, several tools are available on the NH Center for Excellence website at: <http://nhcenterforexcellence.org/resources/community-of-practice-resources/>.