

## 7.28 Medical Necessity Criteria for ASAM Level 4.0 Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient Services

### OVERVIEW:

Appropriate patients served in ASAM Level 4.0 involve those with severe and unstable problems in ASAM Dimensions 1, 2, and 3. Facilities offering ASAM Level 4.0 provide 24-hour nursing and daily physician care as well as counseling services.

Proposed Medical Necessity Criteria — adapted from California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions<sup>1</sup>

To be eligible for ASAM Level 4.0 care, a patient must meet at least one criterion in each of Dimension 1 and 3, and may also meet criteria in Dimension 2. The criterion in Dimension 1 and 3 should be considered together for admission. For concurrent review, other Dimensions for the patient's substance use disorder may also be considered in addition to Dimension 3 criterion as outlined below. The expectation is not to go back and forth multiple times during a single stay on whether a substance use disorder or a mental health disorder is primary, assuming at least one criterion in Dimension 1 has been met upon admission.

#### Dimension 1: Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential

- 1) Incapacitated, with severe signs and symptoms of benzodiazepine and/or alcohol withdrawal.
- 2) Severe withdrawal presents imminent danger of withdrawal seizures or these have already occurred.
- 3) Stuporous despite adequate doses of naloxone
- 4) Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol scale (CIWA-Ar) score over 15
- 5) Acute intoxication causing psychotic type symptoms that pose immediate danger to self or others (e.g. unpredictable, disorganized, or violent behavior)

#### Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions and Complications

- 1) Incapacitated, with severe medical problems
- 2) Severe medical problems that pose imminent life threatening risk

#### Dimension 3: Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications

- 1) Severe and unstable psychiatric symptoms such that requires secure confinement
- 2) Severe and acute psychotic symptoms that pose immediate danger to self or others (e.g. imminent risk of suicide; gross neglect of self-care; psychosis with unpredictable, disorganized, or violent behavior).
- 3) Recent history of psychiatric instability and/or escalating symptoms that pose imminent risk of dangerous consequences or have not been able to be managed in lower levels of care.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cibhs.org/>