



**Mississippi Department of Mental Health**  
**Provider Bulletin**  
**Number PR0146**

**Subject: Revised 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the ASAM  
Level of Care Mandate**

**Issue Date: 11/28/2023**

**Effective Date: 11/28/2023**

**Scope**

All DMH Certified Alcohol and Drug Addiction Providers

**Purpose**

As most of you already know, the ASAM Criteria 4th edition is now officially available! We have heard from many of you about the mixed feelings of excitement and apprehension this has created. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) is continuing to review the significant changes from the 3rd to the 4th edition criteria and how these changes may impact the delivery of substance use disorder treatment services in our state. While we continue to review all the resources available, DMH certified substance use disorder treatment programs will be expected to **continue utilizing** *The ASAM Criteria, 3rd Edition*. The implementation of the 4th Edition will take some thoughtful planning at the state level, and we are committed to providing training and resources to programs well in advance of an implementation date.

Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Bureau of Behavioral Health, Division of Treatment Services strives to be proactive and use education as a preventative tool to help ensure Mississippians receive the highest quality of care through you, the provider. The Bureau of Behavioral Health is committed to providing continued guidance to DMH certified substance use disorder treatment programs regarding *The ASAM Criteria, 4th Edition* implementation efforts at the state level. We will continue to educate DMH certified programs with updated email communications regarding regulatory changes, ASAM state-wide training opportunities, resources to obtain the new criteria, and other pertinent information to ensure a smooth transition. Although providers are ultimately responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable regulations, we will proactively engage providers on an ongoing basis to make sure they are aware of compliance related requirements and expectations. As this 4th edition will have an impact on many levels, DMH sees this as a collaborative effort between our certified treatment programs, payors, and other oversight agencies. The intention is to afford DMH certified programs with as many resources as possible to ensure a successful transition.

**Background**

The ASAM Criteria, nationally recognized as the gold standard in treatment assessment, is the most widely used guideline for assessment, service planning, placement, continued stay and discharge of patients with addictive disorders.

If you have any questions, please contact Misty Bell, Director of Treatment Services at 601-359-6247 or email [misty.bell@dmh.ms.gov](mailto:misty.bell@dmh.ms.gov).

***End of Provider Bulletin***