

 Aetna Better Health® of Kentucky Aetna Better Health of Kentucky 9900 Corporate Campus Drive Suite 100 Louisville, KY 40223	Date:	September 25, 2025
	To	All Network Providers
	From	Provider Experience
	Subject	ASAM Assessment Requirements
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The ASAM Criteria

- The *ASAM Criteria* is the most widely used set of standards for placement for individuals with addiction and co-occurring conditions. In 2019, the KY Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) implemented the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) 1115 Waiver Demonstration and adopted the *ASAM Criteria* as the standard for SUD treatment.
- MCOs are required to utilize the most current version of the *ASAM Criteria* as the medical necessity criteria for all substance use treatment determinations.

ASAM Assessment Requirements

- Providers must continually assess recipients of SUD services using the most recent version of the ASAM criteria to ensure the recipient is in the appropriate level of care and to identify needs.
- Aetna requires that providers submit the most recent ASAM Assessment with all SUD prior authorization requests.

Information and materials regarding the *ASAM Criteria 4th Edition* are located at:

<https://www.asam.org/asam-criteria/asam-criteria-4th-edition>.

References

908 KAR 1:370. Licensing procedures, fees, and general requirements for nonhospital-based alcohol and other drug treatment entities.

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/908/001/370/>

907 KAR 15:080. Coverage provisions and requirements regarding chemical dependency treatment center services.

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/907/015/080/>

902 KAR 20:160. Chemical dependency treatment services and facility specifications.

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/902/020/160/>

Please note that all provider notices require Kentucky Department of Medicaid Services approval prior to dissemination.

Questions?

Simply contact your Network Relations Manager. Our most current listing is attached, the listing can also be

found on our website.

*****INSERT NETWORK CONTACT LISTING*****