



Adoption of The ASAM Criteria[®] for Level of Care Guidance in the Treatment of Substance Use Conditions

We are pleased to announce the adoption of *The ASAM Criteria* for guidance on level of care decisions for the treatment of substance use disorders across most memberships (see table below).

Adopting the American Society of Addiction Medicine's nationally- recognized set of criteria helps to simplify both the provider and consumer experience and facilitates clearer communication among families, treatment providers, and clinical reviewers.

Our existing guidelines were developed with consideration of evidence-based literature and clinical criteria established by professional organizations, including ASAM. In addition, we are already applying *The ASAM Criteria* in some states and for some memberships. Therefore, while we are retiring our existing guidelines in January, there will be overlap between *The ASAM Criteria* and currently applied level of care criteria.

Effective Date: January 31, 2019.

State Exceptions

New York	In accordance with state requirements, we will continue to use OASAS Level of Care for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Referral (LOCADTR) for all applicable memberships
Tennessee	Effective date: January 1, 2019

Optum Idaho – please note that Optum Idaho already uses *The ASAM Criteria*, this notice of ASAM adoption applies to commercial memberships. Updates for Medicaid memberships are sent directly from Optum Idaho.

To learn more about *The ASAM Criteria*, visit the American Society of Addiction Medicine: ASAM.org > Resources > The ASAM Criteria.