

Addiction Services

Addiction services include an array of individual-centered outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential, and inpatient services consistent with the individual's assessed treatment needs with a rehabilitation and recovery focus designed to promote skills for coping with and managing substance use symptoms and behaviors. These services are designed to help individuals achieve recovery. Services should address major lifestyle, attitudinal and behavioral problems that have the potential to be barriers to the goals of treatment.

The goals of substance use disorders (SUDs) prevention and treatment services for adolescents and adults are to acquire a responsive system of service delivery designed to respond to the needs of individuals by utilizing evidence-based models of care and provide the full continuum of care to meet the treatment needs of individuals within the community. The expected outcomes of receiving treatment are to return people to productive levels of functioning within their family, workplace, and community. The provision of treatment services is based on the belief that treatment is:

1. Effective;
2. Prevention works; and
3. People can and do recover from SUDs.

The most effective service delivery system is both client and family-centered, outcome driven and cost effective, allowing individuals and communities to utilize their strengths and resources to effectively respond to SUDs. Treatment enables people to counteract the powerful disruptive effects of substance use on the brain, their behavior and to regain control of their life.

Recovery outcomes of SUDs include but are not limited to the following:

1. Long-term abstinence;
2. Improved quality of life;
3. Improved family relationships;
4. Decreased criminal justice involvement;

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5. Improved physical health and wellness;
6. Increase or sustained employment/education; and
7. Stability in housing.

The following American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) levels are covered services by the Louisiana Medicaid program. The service definition, program requirements, and provider requirements for each level will be detailed throughout the manual chapter. The contents of this chapter have been updated in accordance with the ASAM Criteria, 4th Edition. Effective July 1, 2026, providers shall be in full compliance with the updated standards.

American Society of Addiction Medicine Levels Covered

1. Level 1.5: Outpatient Therapy;
2. Level 2.1: Intensive outpatient treatment;
3. Level 2.7: Medically managed intensive outpatient treatment;
4. Level 3.1: Clinically managed low-intensity residential treatment-adolescent;
5. Level 3.1: Clinically managed low-intensity residential treatment-adults;
6. Level 3.5: Clinically managed medium intensity residential treatment – adolescent;
7. Level 3.5: Clinically managed high intensity residential treatment- adult;
8. Level 3.7: Medically managed residential treatment;
9. Level 3.7: Medically monitored intensive inpatient treatment – adolescent psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs). (Refer to the *Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities* section for definition, qualifications, and requirements);
10. Level 3.7-WM: Medically managed residential withdrawal management-adult (residential setting); and

11. Level 4: Medically managed –inpatient treatment: Specialty unit. (Refer to the sections of this manual chapter on inpatient and outpatient hospitals for definition, qualifications, and requirements).

Provider Qualifications

Agency

To provide ASAM level addiction services, agencies must meet the following requirements:

1. Licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) per Louisiana Revised Statute (La. R.S.) 40:2151 et seq.;
2. Residential substance use treatment facilities must be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the Council on Accreditation (COA), or The Joint Commission (TJC). Denial, loss of, or any negative change in accreditation status must be reported in writing immediately upon notification to the managed care entities with which the agency contracts or is being reimbursed;

NOTE: Facilities must apply for accreditation and pay accreditation fees prior to being contracted or reimbursed by a Medicaid managed care entity, and must maintain proof of accreditation application and fee payment. Agencies must attain full accreditation within 18 months of the initial accreditation application date.

3. Services must be provided under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional (LMHP) or physician who is acting within the scope of their professional license and applicable state law. (Refer to Appendices B and D for more information on LMHPs). The term ‘supervision’ refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor’s or master’s level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards;
4. Arrange for and maintain documentation that prior to employment (or contracting, volunteering, or as required by law) individuals pass criminal background checks, including sexual offender registry checks, in accordance with all of the below:

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- a. The Behavioral Health Service Provider (BHSP) licensing regulations established by the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 48:I.Chapter 56, which includes those for owners, managers, and administrators; any individual treating children and/or adolescents; and any unlicensed direct care staff;
 - b. La. R.S. 40:1203.1 et seq. associated with criminal background checks of un-licensed workers providing client care;
 - c. La. R.S. 15:587, as applicable; and
 - d. Any other applicable state or federal law.
5. Providers must not hire individuals failing to meet criminal background check requirements and regulations. Individuals not in compliance with criminal background check requirements and regulations must not be utilized on an employment, contract nor volunteer basis. Criminal background checks performed over 90 days prior to the date of employment will not be accepted as meeting the criminal background check requirement. Results of criminal background checks are to be maintained in the individual's personnel record;
6. The provider must review the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS') Office of Inspector General (OIG) List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) and the LDH State Adverse Actions website prior to hiring or contracting any employee or contractor that performs services that are compensated with Medicaid/Medicare funds, including but not limited to licensed and unlicensed staff, interns and contractors. Once employed, the lists must be checked once a month thereafter to determine if there is a finding that an employee or contractor has abused, neglected or extorted any individual or if they have been excluded from participation in the Medicaid or Medicare program by Louisiana Medicaid or the DHHS' OIG. The provider is prohibited from knowingly employing or contracting with, or retaining the employment of or contract with, anyone who has a negative finding placed on the LDH State Adverse Action List, or who have been excluded from participation in the Medicaid or Medicare program by Louisiana Medicaid or the DHHS' OIG;

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7. Providers are required to maintain results in personnel records that checks have been completed. The OIG maintains the LEIE on the OIG website (<https://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov>) and the LDH State Adverse Action website is located at <https://adverseactions.ldh.la.gov/SelSearch>;
8. Establish and maintain written policies and procedures inclusive of drug testing staff to ensure an alcohol and drug-free workplace and a workforce free of substance use. (Refer to Appendix D);
9. Maintain documentation that all direct care staff, who are required to complete First Aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and seizure assessment training, complete American Heart Association (AHA) recognized training within 90 days of hire, which must be renewed within a time period recommended by the AHA. (Refer to Appendices A and D);
10. Maintain documentation of verification of staff meeting educational and professional requirements, licensure (where applicable), as well as completion of required trainings for all staff; and
11. Ensure and maintain documentation that all unlicensed persons employed by the organization complete training in a recognized crisis intervention (CI) curriculum prior to handling or managing crisis calls, which must be updated annually.

Staff

To provide addiction services, staff must meet the following requirements:

1. Licensed and unlicensed professional staff must be at least 18 years of age, with a high school diploma or equivalent according to their areas of competence as determined by degree, required levels of experience as defined by State law and regulations and departmentally approved guidelines and certifications;
2. Staff must be at least three years older than any client served under 18 years of age. Licensed individual practitioners with no documentation of having provided addiction services prior to December 1, 2015, are required to demonstrate competency via the Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ADC) exam, the Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (AADC) exam, or the Examination for Master

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Addictions Counselor (EMAC). Any licensed individual practitioner, who has documentation of providing addiction services prior to December 1, 2015, and within their scope of practice is exempt from (ADC, AADC, EMAC) testing requirements. Organizational agencies are required to obtain verification of competency (passing of accepted examinations) or exemption (prior work history/resume, employer letter). Licensed providers practicing independently must submit verification of competency or an exemption request (based on verified required work history) to the Coordinated System of Care (CSoc) contractor and/or managed care organizations (MCOs) with whom they credential and contract;

3. Staff can include the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) recognized peer support specialists who meet all other qualifications. A peer specialist is a recommended position at all ASAM levels of care. A peer specialist is a person with lived experience with behavioral health challenges, who is in active recovery and is trained to assist others in their own recovery. The peer specialist uses their own unique, life-altering experience in order to guide and support others who are in recovery. This refers to individuals recovering from SUDs. Peer specialist work in conjunction with highly trained and educated professionals. They fill a gap by providing support from the perspective of someone who has first-hand experience;
4. The provider is prohibited from knowingly employing or contracting with, or retaining the employment of or contract with, a member of the direct care staff who has an alcohol or drug offense, unless the employee or contractor has completed their court-ordered sentence, including community service, probation and/or parole and been sober per personal attestation for at least the last two years;
5. Satisfactory completion of criminal background checks pursuant to the BHSP licensing regulations (LAC 48:I.Chapter 56), La. R.S. 40:1203.1 et seq., La. R.S. 15:587 (as applicable), and any applicable state or federal law or regulation;
6. Pass a motor vehicle screen (if duties may involve driving or transporting clients);
7. Pass drug screening tests as required by agency's policies and procedures;
8. Employees and contractors must not be excluded from participation in the Medicaid or Medicare Program by Louisiana Medicaid or the DHHS' OIG;

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9. Direct care staff must not have a finding on the Louisiana State Adverse Action List;
10. Complete AHA recognized First Aid, CPR and seizure assessment training. Physicians, advanced practical registered nurses (APRNs)/clinical nurse specialists (CNSs)/physician assistants, registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) are exempt from this training. (Refer to Appendix D); and
11. Non-licensed direct care staff are required to complete a basic clinical competency training program approved by OBH prior to providing the service. (Refer to Appendix D).

Staffing Requirements

Personnel must consist of professional and other support staff that are adequate to meet the needs of the individuals admitted to the facility.

Medical Director

The provider must ensure that its **medical director** is a licensed physician, with a current, unrestricted license to practice in the state of Louisiana, who:

1. Is an addiction specialist; or
2. Meets all of the following:
 - a. Is board-eligible or board-certified;
 - b. Has two years of qualifying experience in treating addictive disorders; and
 - c. Maintains a consulting relationship with an addiction specialist.

NOTE: Please see LAC 48:I.Chapter 56 for more information regarding the duties of the medical director.

Clinical Supervisor

State regulations require supervision of unlicensed professionals by a **clinical supervisor** who, with the exception of opioid treatment programs (OTPs):

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1. Is an LMHP that maintains a current and unrestricted license with its respective professional board or licensing authority in the state of Louisiana;
2. Must be on duty and on call as needed;
3. Has two years of qualifying clinical experience as an LMHP in the provision of services provided by the provider; and
4. Must have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Provide supervision utilizing evidenced-based techniques related to the practice of behavioral health counseling;
 - b. Serve as resource person for other professionals counseling persons with behavioral health disorders;
 - c. Attend and participate in care conferences, treatment planning activities, and discharge planning;
 - d. Provide oversight and supervision of such activities as recreation, art/music or vocational education;
 - e. Function as client advocate in treatment decisions;
 - f. Ensure the provider adheres to rules and regulations regarding all behavioral health treatment, such as group size, caseload, and referrals;
 - g. Provide only those services that are within the person's scope of practice; and
 - h. Assist the clinical director and/or medical director and governing body with the development and implementation of policies and procedures.

Licensed Mental Health Professional

LMHPs must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards. The LMHP providing addiction treatment services

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must have documented credentials, experience and/or training in working with clients who have addictive disorders, which must be maintained in the individual's personnel record.

Unlicensed Professionals

Unlicensed professionals of addiction services must be registered with the Addictive Disorders Regulatory Authority (ADRA) and meet regulations and requirements in accordance with La. RS 37:3387 et seq. Written verification of ADRA registration must be maintained in the individual's personnel record. Unlicensed staff who fall under a professional scope of behavioral health practice with formal board approved clinical supervision and whose scope includes the provision of addiction services will not need to register with ADRA. Unlicensed addiction providers must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

1. Be a master's-prepared behavioral health professional that has not obtained full licensure privileges and is participating in ongoing professional supervision. When working in addiction treatment settings, the master's-prepared unlicensed professional must be supervised by an LMHP, who meets the requirements of this section;
2. Be a registered addiction counselor;
3. Be a certified addiction counselor; or
4. Be a counselor-in-training (CIT) that is registered with ADRA and is currently participating in a supervision required by the Addictive Disorders practice act.

House Manager

A residential substance use provider must have a **house manager**. The house manager must:

1. Be at least 21 years old;
2. Have at least two years qualifying experience working for a provider that treats clients with mental illness and/or addictive disorders;
3. Supervise the activities of the facility when the professional staff is not on duty;
4. Perform clinical duties only if licensed to do so;

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5. Report allegations of abuse, neglect and misappropriation to the medical director;
6. Identify and respond to and report any crisis situation to the clinical supervisor when it occurs; and
7. Coordinate and consult with the clinical staff as needed.

Allowed Provider Types and Specialties**Outpatient Services**

1. PT 68 Substance Use and Alcohol Use Center PS 70 Clinic/Group; and
2. PT 74 Mental Health Clinic PS 70 Clinic/Group.

Residential Services

1. PT AZ Substance Use Residential Treatment Facility PS 8U Substance Use or Addiction.

Eligibility Criteria

The medical necessity for these addiction services must be determined by and recommended by an LMHP or physician and under the direction of a licensed practitioner, to promote the maximum reduction of symptoms and/or restoration of an individual to their best age-appropriate functional level.

Adolescents are defined as children and youth, 0 through 17 years of age. Services may be provided up to the time the individual turns 18 years of age. An adult is defined as anyone 18 years of age and over.

Allowed Mode(s) of Delivery

1. Individual;
2. Group;

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3. On-site;
4. Off-site; and
5. Tele-health (LMHPs only).

Additional Service Criteria

A unit of service is defined according to the healthcare common procedure coding system (HCPCS) approved code set, unless otherwise specified. One session is equal to one visit.

These rehabilitation services are provided as part of a comprehensive specialized psychiatric program available to all Medicaid-eligible individuals with significant functional impairments resulting from an identified addiction diagnosis. Services are subject to prior approval, must be medically necessary and must be recommended by an LMHP or physician who is acting within the scope of their professional licensed and applicable State law to promote the maximum reduction of symptoms and/or restoration of an individual to their best age-appropriate functional level according to an individualized treatment plan.

Providers must maintain medical records that include a copy of the assessment/evaluation, treatment plan, the name of the individual, dates of services provided, nature, content, and units of rehabilitation services provided and progress made toward functional improvement and goals in the treatment plan (Refer to Section 2.6 – Record Keeping).

Clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities are to be treated in all ASAM levels of care. Consult chapter 19 of the Fourth Edition of The ASAM Criteria for guidance on managing and treating this sub-population.

Services provided to children and youth must include communication and coordination with the family and/or legal guardian. Coordination with other child-serving systems should occur, as needed, to achieve the treatment goals. All coordination must be documented in the youth's medical record. Components that are not provided to, or directed exclusively toward the treatment of, the Medicaid-eligible individual are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

Services provided at a work site must not be job tasks-oriented and must be directly related to treatment of an individual's substance use needs. Any services or components of services, the basic nature of which are to supplant housekeeping, homemaking or basic services for the convenience of a person receiving covered services (including housekeeping, shopping, child-care and laundry services) are not covered.

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All substance use treatment services must offer the family component. Adolescent substance use programs must include family involvement, parent education and family therapy.

All substance use treatment providers are recommended to have on-site overdose reversal medications (e.g., naloxone), refer to specific sections to determine if this is a requirement for a particular level of care (LOC).

Room and board is excluded from any rates provided in a residential setting.

ASAM levels of care may be subject to prior approval and reviews on an ongoing basis to document compliance with the national standards.

Staffing for the facility must be consistent with State licensure regulations on a full-time employee (FTE) basis.

Adolescent facilities with greater than 16 beds must be a PRTF providing an inpatient LOC. Only facilities providing ASAM Level 3.7 will be permitted to become PRTFs.

For adults, independent laboratory work is not part of the capitated rate. However, routine drug screens that are part of residential, outpatient and inpatient services are covered under the rate paid to the provider.

Telehealth

Telemedicine/telehealth is the use of a telecommunications system to render healthcare services when a physician or LMHP and a client are not in the same location. Telehealth does NOT include the use of text, e-mail, or facsimile (fax) for the delivery of healthcare services.

The originating site means the location of the client at the time the telehealth services are provided. There is no restriction on the originating site and it can include, but is not limited to, a healthcare facility, school, or the client's home. Distant site means the site at which the physician or other licensed practitioner is located at the time the telehealth services are provided.

Assessments, evaluations, individual psychotherapy, family psychotherapy, and medication management services within intensive outpatient or outpatient treatment may be provided via telecommunication technology when the following criteria is met:

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1. The telecommunication system used by physicians and LMHPs must be secure, ensure client confidentiality, and be compliant with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);
2. The services provided are within the practitioner's telehealth scope of practice as dictated by the respective professional licensing board and accepted standards of clinical practice;
3. The client's record includes informed consent for services provided through the use of telehealth;
4. Services provided using telehealth must be identified on claims submission using by appending the modifier "95" to the applicable procedure code and indicating the correct place of service, either point of sale (POS) 02 (other than home) or 10 (home). Both the correct POS and the 95 modifier must be present on the claim to receive reimbursement;
5. Assessments and evaluations conducted by an LMHP through telehealth should include synchronous, interactive, real-time electronic communication comprising both audio and visual elements unless clinically appropriate and based on client consent; and
6. Providers must deliver in-person services when telehealth is not clinically appropriate or when the client requests in-person services.

Exclusions: Methadone admission visits conducted by the admitting physician within OTPs are not allowed via telecommunication technology.

Alcohol and Drug Assessment and Referrals

Alcohol and drug assessment and referrals provide ongoing assessment and referral services for individuals presenting a current or past use pattern of alcohol or other drug use. The assessment is designed to gather and analyze information regarding a client's biopsychosocial, substance use and treatment history. The purpose of the assessment is to provide sufficient information for problem identification and, if appropriate, substance use-related treatment or referral. A licensed provider must comply with licensing standards and any further LDH standards outlined below in regard to assessment practices. Once an individual receives an assessment, a staff member must provide the individual with the identified clinical recommendation. Evaluations must include the

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consideration of appropriate psychopharmacotherapy. There must be evidence that the client was assessed to determine if Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) was a viable option of care, based on the SUD diagnosis.

SUD providers, when clinically appropriate, must:

1. Educate clients on the proven effectiveness, benefits and risks of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved MAT options for their SUD;
2. Provide on-site MAT or refer to MAT offsite; and
3. Document client education, access to MAT and client response in the progress notes.

Residential SUD providers must provide MAT onsite or facilitate access to MAT offsite which includes coordinating with the client's health plan for referring to available MAT provider and arranging Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation if other transportation is not available for the client.

Core Requirements for the Screening, Assessment and Treatment Planning Process (all ASAM Levels)

A triage screening is conducted to determine eligibility and appropriateness (proper client placement) for admission and referral. (The MCO/CSoc contractor ensures that pre-certification requirements are met).

For adults and adolescents, a comprehensive bio-psychosocial assessment and LOC Assessment based on the Dimensional Admission Criteria and Algorithm (Chapter 10) in the *4th Edition of the ASAM Criteria* or withdrawal management LOC-specific guidelines in the Specialized Behavioral Health Provider Manual must be completed prior to admission, which substantiates client placement at the appropriate ASAM LOC. The evaluation must be reviewed and signed by an LMHP. The comprehensive bio-psychosocial evaluation must contain the following:

1. Circumstances leading to admission;
2. Past and present behavioral health concerns;
3. Past and present psychiatric and addictive disorders treatment;

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4. Significant medical history and current health status;
5. Family and social history;
6. Current living situation;
7. Relationships with family of origin, nuclear;
8. Family and significant others;
9. Education and vocational training;
10. Employment history and current status;
11. Military service history and current status;
12. Legal history and current legal status;
13. Emotional state and behavioral functioning, past and present; and
14. Strengths, weaknesses, and needs.

A physical examination or appropriate referral within 72 hours if indicated by the physician, nursing assessment or screening process unless indicated to occur sooner than 72 hours in specific levels of care.

A drug screening is conducted when the client's history is inconclusive or unreliable.

An appropriate assignment to LOC with referral to other appropriate services as indicated must be made.

For residential facilities, diagnostic laboratory tests or appropriate referral must be made as required to prevent spread of contagious/communicable disease, or as indicated by physical examination or nursing assessment.

Treatment plans must be based on and consistent with the assessment, and include person-centered goals and objectives with initial treatment plan deadlines and update deadlines as specified in the

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LOC sections. The treatment plan must be developed with active participation of the individual, family, and providers and be based on the individual's condition and the standards of practice for the provision of rehabilitative services. The treatment plan shall include at a minimum:

1. Indication if treatment plan is an initial or an updated treatment plan;
2. Goals and objectives, which are Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound (SMART);
3. Specific interventions;
4. Service locations for each intervention;
5. Staff providing the intervention;
6. Estimated frequency, amount, and duration of service;
7. Signatures of the physician or LMHP, member, and responsible party, i.e., guardian/caregiver, if applicable;
8. Updated according to requirements of the LOC and when there are significant life changes, achieved goals, or new problems identified; and
9. Progression made towards all goals.

The re-evaluation must involve the individual, family and providers and include a re-evaluation of plan to determine whether services have contributed to meeting the stated goals. A new treatment plan must be developed if there is no measureable reduction of disability or restoration of functional level. The new plan must identify different rehabilitation strategy with revised goals and services. If the services are being provided to a youth enrolled in a wrap-around agency (WAA), the substance use provider must either be on the Child Family Team (CFT) or will work closely with the CFT. Substance use service provision will be part of the youth's treatment plan developed by the team.

An interdisciplinary team (IDT) of appropriately trained clinicians, such as physicians, nurses, counselors, social workers and psychologists, is available to assess and treat the individual and to obtain and interpret information regarding the client's needs. The number and disciplines of team members are appropriate to the range and severity of the individual's problems.

Level 1.5 Outpatient Therapy

ASAM Level 1.5 services are professionally directed assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery services provided in an organized non-residential treatment setting. Outpatient services are organized activities which may be delivered in any appropriate community setting that meets State licensure.

These services include, but are not limited to, individual, group, family counseling and psycho-education on recovery and wellness. These programs offer comprehensive, coordinated and defined services that may vary in level of intensity but are fewer than nine clinical contact hours per week for adults and six hours per week for adolescents.

ASAM Level 1.5 providers may provide Long Term Remission Monitoring (LTRM) when admission criteria are met. (A SUD in sustained remission as defined by the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM): remission for at least one year). LTRM includes remission monitoring, mental health screenings, and re-intervention as indicated, with frequency of visits based on clinical need and at least quarterly recovery management checkups. LTRM visits may be billed using the same outpatient billing codes as Level 1.5.

Admission Guidelines (ASAM Level 1.5)

Admissions under ASAM Level 1.5 must meet one of the following:

1. The client has a very low likelihood of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss, and is assessed as able to prevent substance use and achieve recovery goals with non-intensive clinical services; or
2. The client has a low likelihood of engaging in substance use with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences, and requires occasional services to consolidate recovery goals; or
3. The client has a very low likelihood of engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with risk of significant harm or destabilizing loss, and is assessed as able to avoid engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with non-intensive clinical services; or

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4. The client has a low likelihood of engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences, and requires occasional clinical services to consolidate recovery goals.

Admission criteria for LTRM includes one year of sustained remission from a SUD.

Screening, Assessment and Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 1.5)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan, which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals must be developed in collaboration with the member within the first three visits. The treatment plan is then reviewed/updated in collaboration with the member, as needed, as required by that LOC, but at a minimum of every 90 days or more frequently if indicated by the member's needs and documented accordingly. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements are made, as needed.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 1.5)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following is required for ASAM Level 1.5.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 1.5)

The ASAM Level 1.5 provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. There are physician services available as needed for the management of psychiatric and medical needs of the members;
3. There is a clinical supervisor available on-site for supervision as needed, and available on call at all times;

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4. There is at least one LMHP or unlicensed professional under the supervision of an LMHP on-site when clinical services are being provided;
5. Each LMHP or unlicensed professional caseload does not exceed a ratio of 1:50 active members; and
6. There are nursing services available as needed to meet the nursing needs of the members. Nursing services may be provided directly by the provider or may be provided or arranged via written contract, agreement, policy, or other document. The provider must maintain documentation of such arrangement.

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 1.5)

An LMHP must be available (defined as on-site or available by phone) at all times for CI. An LMHP, who is a qualified clinical supervisor must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation. The term supervision refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor's or master's level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Counseling groups should not exceed 12 individuals. Educational group size is not restricted.

Level 2.1 Intensive Outpatient Treatment

Intensive outpatient treatment is professionally directed assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery services provided in an organized non-residential treatment setting. Intensive outpatient services are organized activities which may be delivered in any appropriate community setting that meets State licensure.

These services include, but are not limited to, individual, group, family counseling and psycho-education on recovery, as well as monitoring of drug use, medication management, medical and psychiatric examinations, CI coverage and orientation to community-based support groups. Intensive outpatient program services must include evidence-informed practices, such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), motivational interviewing and multidimensional family therapy. These

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programs provide nine to 19 hours per week of structured clinical services for adults and six to 19 hours per week for adolescents. Structured services selected by LMHP should be provided at least three days per week for adults and two days per week for adolescents. Services should be provided in an amount, frequency, and intensity appropriate to individual client needs and level of function as determined by multidimensional assessment.

Requirements by Population			
	Group Hours	Weekly	Contact Hours
Adults	Minimum of 3	3x/week	9 to 19
Adolescents	Minimum of 3	2x/week	6 to 19

Three hour ASAM 2.1 groups must not be provided more than five days per week. A minimum of one individual session is required per 30 days and no more than four individual sessions may be provided within a 30 day period. The maximum number of treatment hours is 19 hours per week for this LOC for adults and adolescents. This level consists of a scheduled series of face-to-face sessions appropriate to the individual's treatment plan.

Service Type Requirements			
	Hours	Treatment	Maximum Treatment Hours
Group Hours	3	≤5 days	19 hours weekly (adults and adolescents)
Individual Sessions	1-4	30 days	

Admission guidelines (ASAM Level 2.1)

For adults, admissions under ASAM Level 2.1 must meet one of the following:

1. The client has a low likelihood of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss and is assessed as able to develop relapse prevention skills and prevent substance use with intensive clinical services several times per week and/or a low-intensity therapeutic milieu;

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2. The client has a moderate likelihood of engaging in substance use with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences and requires intensive clinical services several times per week and/or a low-intensity therapeutic milieu to achieve recovery goals;
3. The client otherwise meets criteria one or two for treatment at ASAM Level 1.5, but due to interactions with biomedical concerns, psychiatric or cognitive conditions, and/or recovery environment interactions, requires more clinical service hours per week to support stability;
4. The client has a low likelihood of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss and is assessed as able to develop recovery-sustaining skills and prevent risky SUD-related behaviors with intensive clinical services several times per week and/or a low-intensity therapeutic milieu;
5. The client has a moderate likelihood of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences and requires intensive clinical services several times per week and/or a low-intensity therapeutic milieu to achieve recovery goals;
7. The client otherwise meets criteria three or four for treatment at ASAM Level 1.5, but due interactions with psychiatric or cognitive conditions requires more clinical service hours per week to support stability; or
8. The client's primary concern is SUD, and the client has moderate functional impairment in life activities (e.g., taking care of household responsibilities and day-to-day work and/or school obligations) and/or social relationships (e.g., creating and maintaining relationships, interacting appropriately with others) and, to address these impairments and achieve recovery goals, requires clinical services several times per week and/or a low intensity therapeutic milieu.

Screening, Assessment and Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 2.1)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

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An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan, which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals must be developed in collaboration with the client. The initial treatment plan shall be completed within the first three visits and updated at a minimum of every 30 days. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements, made as needed.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 2.1)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for ASAM Level 2.1.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 2.1)

The ASAM Level 2.1 provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. A physician is on-site as needed for the management of psychiatric and medical needs and on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week;
3. There is a clinical supervisor on-site 10 hours a week and on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week;
4. There is at least one LMHP or unlicensed professional under the supervision of an LMHP on-site when clinical services are being provided;
5. Each LMHP/unlicensed professional caseload does not exceed a ratio of 1:25 active clients;
6. There are nursing services available as needed to meet the nursing needs of the clients; and
7. Nursing services may be provided directly by the BHS provider or may be provided or arranged via written contract, agreement, policy, or other document. The BHS provider must maintain documentation of such arrangement.

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 2.1)

An LMHP must be available (defined as on-site or available by phone) at all times for CI. An LMHP, who is a qualified clinical supervisor must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation. The term supervision refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor's or master's level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Counseling groups should not exceed 12 individuals. Educational group size is not restricted.

Level 2.7 Medically Managed Intensive Outpatient Treatment

This LOC is an organized outpatient service, which may be delivered in an office setting, health care or addiction treatment facility by trained clinicians, who provide medically supervised evaluation, withdrawal management and referral services. The care is delivered in an office/health care setting or behavioral health treatment facility. A minimum of 20 clinical hours per week of services are required at this LOC.

These services are designed to treat the individual's level of clinical severity to achieve safe and comfortable withdrawal from mood-altering chemicals and to effectively facilitate the individual's entry into ongoing treatment and recovery. Withdrawal management is conducted on an outpatient basis. It is important for medical and nursing personnel to be readily available to evaluate and confirm that withdrawal management in the less supervised setting is relatively safe.

Admission guidelines (ASAM Level 2.7)

Admissions under ASAM 2.7 must meet the following:

1. The client is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience moderately severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal that are explainable based on known history and expected to be controllable at this LOC (e.g., with oral, subcutaneous injection, intramuscular injection medications) and the client requires medical management with extended nursing care available during business hours;

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2. The client is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience mild to moderate signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal that interfere with daily functioning and/or treatment and recovery efforts, has minimal risk of severe withdrawal, and the client requires frequent (i.e., more than weekly check-ins) during the acute withdrawal phase but does not require extended nursing care and:
 - a. The client and/or their available support persons are unable to follow instructions necessary to support withdrawal management in a lower LOC but can reliably access services in an ASAM Level 2.7 program; or
 - b. The client has needs related to biomedical, psychiatric, or cognitive conditions that require closer nursing monitoring (e.g., due to potential medication interactions).
3. The client's primary concern is SUD and they are experiencing moderately severe acute but not life-threatening physical health problems that are explainable based on known history and expected to be controllable in this LOC (e.g., with oral, subcutaneous injection, intramuscular injection medications):
 - a. The client requires frequent (i.e., daily or near-daily) medical management and/or nursing care; and
 - b. The client cannot reliably access external medical treatment to adequately address their physical needs; and/or the client is assessed as needing integrated medical services.
4. The client's primary concern is SUD and they are experiencing moderate acute health problems and requires integrated medical services and/or support that are not available in a less intensive LOC;
5. The client's primary concern is SUD and they are experiencing moderate physical health problems (e.g., complex partial seizure disorder, hypertension, diabetes), and the client requires extended nursing care during program hours due to exacerbation of their physical health problems from intoxication or withdrawal;

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6. The client's primary concern is SUD and the client is pregnant and requires daily or near-daily medical management and/or nursing care for pregnancy complications that are not life-threatening and do not require fetal monitoring; and
7. The client's primary concern is SUD and they are experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms at a level of acuity and complexity that interferes with addiction treatment and recovery:
 - a. The client requires frequent (i.e., daily or near-daily) psychiatric management and/or nursing care to achieve sufficient stability to enable effective participation in addiction treatment;
 - b. The client has adequate impulse control to resist acting upon any thoughts of harm to self or others (if present) with daily or near-daily clinical support; and
 - c. The client cannot reliably access external psychiatric care to adequately address their mental health needs, and/or the client is assessed as requiring integrated skilled mental health interventions to permit participation in addiction treatment.

Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 2-WM)

See *Core Requirements* in the general section.

Within 24 to 48 hours of admission, a physician or advanced practice provider shall conduct a history and physical examination on-site and review and approve the admission decision.

An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals must be developed in collaboration with the client. The treatment plan is reviewed/updated in collaboration with the client, as needed, or at minimum of every 30 days or more frequently if indicated by the client's needs and documented accordingly.

Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements made as needed.

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Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 2.7)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for ASAM Level 2.7.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 2.7)

The Level 2.7 provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). The facility must have qualified professional medical, nursing counseling and other support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the biopsychosocial needs of individuals being admitted to the program. In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. A physician is on-site at least 10 hours per week during operational hours and on-call 24 hours per day, seven days per week;
3. A physician must be available to assess the individual within 24 hours of admission (or earlier, if medically necessary) and is available to provide on-site monitoring of care and further evaluation on a daily basis;
4. There is a clinical supervisor available on-site for supervision as needed and available on call at all times;
5. There is an LMHP or unlicensed professional under the supervision of an LMHP on-site 40 hours per week;
6. Each LMHP/unlicensed professional caseload does not exceed a ratio of 1:25 active clients;
7. There is a licensed nurse on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week and on-site no less than 40 hours a week;
8. A nurse must be responsible for overseeing the monitoring of the individual's progress and medication. Appropriately licensed and credentialed staff is available to administer medications in accordance with physician orders; and

9. There is a RN on-site as needed to perform nursing assessments.

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 2.7)

An LMHP, who is a qualified clinical supervisor must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation. The term supervision refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor's or master's level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Minimum Standards of Practice (ASAM Level 2-WM)

1. **Toxicology and drug screening** - Urine drug screens (UDSs) are required upon admission and as directed by the treatment plan and are considered covered under the rate paid to the provider;
2. **Stabilization/treatment plan** - A qualified professional must identify the individual's short-term needs, based on the withdrawal management history, the medical history and the physical examination and prepare a plan of action. The treatment plan must be reviewed and signed by the physician and the individual and must be filed in the individual's record within 24 hours of admission with updates, as needed;
3. **Progress notes** - The program must implement the stabilization/treatment plan and document the individual's response to and/or participation in scheduled activities. Notes must include the following:
 - a. The individual's physical condition, including vital signs;
 - b. The individual's mood and behavior;
 - c. Statements about the individual's condition and needs;

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- d. Information about the individual's progress or lack of progress in relation to stabilization/treatment goals; and
 - e. Additional notes must be documented, as needed.
- 4. **Physicians' orders** - Physicians' orders are required for medical and psychiatric management; and
- 5. **Biomedical capabilities** – programs shall have access to the following biomedical capabilities on-site:
 - a. Vitals measurement and monitoring, including pulse oximetry and blood pressure;
 - b. Glucose monitoring;
 - c. Basic first aid;
 - d. An automated external defibrillator;
 - e. Basic wound care;
 - f. Injectable epinephrine;
 - g. Overdose reversal medication (e.g., naloxone);
 - h. Vaccine administration (e.g., hepatitis A and B viruses, influenza, COVID-19);
 - i. Point-of-care pregnancy testing; and
 - j. Laboratory and phlebotomy services, access on-site or off-site acceptable.

Level 3.1 Clinically Managed Low Intensity Residential Treatment – Adolescent

Residential programs offer at least five hours per week of a combination of low-intensity clinical and recovery-focused services. Low-intensity residential treatment services for adolescents are directed toward applying recovery skills, preventing relapse, improving emotional functioning, promoting personal responsibility and reintegrating the individual into the worlds of work, education and family life. Services provided may include individual, group and family therapy, medication management and medication education. Mutual/self-help meetings usually are available on-site. This level of services does not include sober houses, boarding houses or group homes where treatment services are not provided.

Admission Guidelines (ASAM Level 3.1 Adolescent)

ASAM level 3.1 services for adolescents are available to members who meet the following criteria. The client exhibits:

1. **Acute intoxication and/or withdrawal potential** – None or minimal/stable withdrawal risk;
2. **Biomedical conditions and complications** – None or stable. If present, the client must be receiving medical monitoring;
3. **Emotional, behavioral or cognitive conditions and complications** – None or minimal. If present, conditions must be stable and not too distracting to the client's recovery;
4. **Readiness to change** – Client should be open to recovery, but in need of a structured, therapeutic environment;
5. **Relapse, continued use or continued problem potential** – Client understands the risk of relapse, but lacks relapse prevention skills or requires a structured environment; and
6. **Recovery environment** – Environment is dangerous, but recovery is achievable within a 24-hour structure.

Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 3.1 Adolescent)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan, which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals should be developed in collaboration with the client within 72 hours of admission. The treatment plan is reviewed in collaboration with the client every 90 days or more frequently if indicated by the client's needs and documented accordingly. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements made prior to discharge.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 3.1 Adolescent)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for providers of ASAM Level 3.1 Adolescent.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 3.1 Adolescent)

Facilities that provide ASAM level 3.1 services must have both qualified professional and support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the bio-psychosocial needs of individuals being admitted to the program.

In addition to the staffing required by therapeutic group homes (TGH), Adolescent TGH ASAM 3.1 must have at least the following staffing:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. The provider must have a clinical supervisor available for clinical supervision and by telephone for consultation;
3. LMHP or unlicensed professional under supervision of a an LMHP caseload must not exceed 1:8 active clients;
4. At least one LMHP or unlicensed professional is on duty at least 40 hours a week when majority of individuals are awake and on-site;
5. The provider must have a house manager;

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6. The provider must have at least two direct care aides (two FTE) on duty during each shift;
7. There must be a ratio of 1:8 direct care aides during all shifts and a ratio of 1:5 direct care aides on therapy outings; and
8. There must be a care coordinator and/or duties may be assumed by clinical staff.

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 3.1 Adolescent)

An LMHP, who is a qualified clinical supervisor, must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation. The term supervision refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor's or master's level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

Licensed, certified or registered clinicians provide a planned regimen of 24-hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment services for individuals.

A house manager is required to supervise activities of the facility when the professional staff is on call, but not on duty. This person is required to have adequate orientation and skills to assess situations related to relapse and to provide access to appropriate medical care when needed.

Clerical support staff (one FTE) is recommended.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Level 3.1 Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Treatment – Adult

Level 3.1 residential programs offer at least nine to 19 hours per week of a combination of low-intensity clinical and recovery-focused services seven days per week. Low-intensity residential treatment services for adults are directed toward applying recovery skills, preventing relapse, improving emotional functioning, promoting personal responsibility and reintegrating the individual into the worlds of work, education and family life. Services provided may include individual, group and family therapy, medication management and medication education. Mutual/self-help meetings usually are available on-site. Facilities that provide low-intensity, clinical, and recovery-focused services do not include sober living houses, boarding houses or

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group homes where treatment services are not provided. (An example is a halfway house). All ASAM Level 3.1 Adult facilities shall document client whereabouts while on-site hourly.

Admission Guidelines (ASAM Level 3.1 Adult)

Admissions under ASAM Level 3.1 must meet one of the following:

1. The client has a moderate likelihood of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss and is assessed as able to develop relapse prevention skills and prevent substance use with residential structure and 24-hour clinically managed support while practicing recovery-sustaining skills safely on a limited basis in the community;
2. The client otherwise meets criteria 1, 2, or 3 for treatment at ASAM Level 2.1, but due to interactions with biomedical conditions, psychiatric or cognitive conditions, and/or recovery environment interactions requires more 24-hour clinically managed structure and support for additional stability and/or the client requires residential support to reliably participate in care and is assessed as unable to safely and/or effectively engage in outpatient care with recovery residence support;
3. The client has a moderate likelihood of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss and is assessed as able to prevent risky SUD-related behaviors with residential structure and 24-hour clinically managed support while practicing recovery-sustaining skills safely on a limited basis in the community;
4. The client otherwise meets criteria four, five, or six for treatment at ASAM Level 2.1 but, due to interactions with psychiatric or cognitive conditions and/or recovery environment interactions, requires 24-hour clinically managed structure and support for additional stability and/or the client requires residential support to reliably participate in care and is assessed as unable to safely and/or effectively engage in outpatient care with recovery residence support;
5. The client's primary concern is SUD and they have moderately severe functional impairment in life activities (e.g., taking care of household responsibilities and day-to-day work and/or school obligations) and/or social relationships (e.g., creating and maintaining relationships, interacting appropriately with others) and, to further develop the basic interpersonal skills and/or skills of independent living necessary

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to support sustained recovery, requires 24-hour structure and support with a therapeutic milieu and opportunities to practice learned skills in the community on a limited basis;

6. The client otherwise meets criteria seven for treatment at ASAM Level 2.1, but is assessed as unlikely to reliably attend outpatient services;
7. The client otherwise meets criteria seven for treatment at ASAM Level 2.1, but lacks a safe and sufficiently supportive after-hours environment or requires an after-hours therapeutic milieu to effectively address functional impairment:
 - a. The client is unable to effectively participate in the rules-based milieu of a recovery residence; or
 - b. A recovery residence milieu is unlikely to provide sufficient support.
8. The client otherwise meets criteria for outpatient treatment but, due to interactions with intoxication, withdrawal, and addiction medications; biomedical conditions; psychiatric and cognitive conditions; or substance use-related risks, their recovery environment – including their home and/or a recovery residence – will not provide sufficient support or daily structure to allow for safe and effective participation in outpatient addiction treatment.

Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 3.1 Adult)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan, which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals must be developed in collaboration with the client within 72 hours of admission. The treatment plan is reviewed in collaboration with the client every 30 days or more frequently of indicated by the client's needs and documented accordingly. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements made prior to discharge.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 3.1 Adult)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for providers of ASAM Level 3.1 Adults.

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Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 3.1 Adult)

The ASAM Level 3.1 Adult provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). The facility must have qualified professional staff and support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the bio-psychosocial needs of individuals being admitted to the program. In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. The provider must have a clinical supervisor available for clinical supervision and by telephone for consultation;
3. LMHP or unlicensed professional under supervision of an LMHP caseload must not exceed 1:25 active clients;
4. There must be at least one LMHP or unlicensed professional on duty at least 40 hours a week when majority of individuals are awake and on-site;
5. The provider must have a house manager;
6. The provider must have at least one direct care aides (one FTE on all shifts; additional staff as needed) on duty during each shift; and
7. There must be a care coordinator and/or duties may be assumed by clinical staff.

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 3.1 Adult)

An LMHP, who is a qualified clinical supervisor, must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation. The term supervision refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor's or master's level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

Licensed, certified or registered clinicians provide a planned regimen of 24-hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment services for individuals.

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A house manager is required to supervise activities of the facility when the professional staff is on call, but not on duty. This person is required to have adequate orientation and skills to assess situations related to relapse and to provide access to appropriate medical care when needed.

Clerical support staff (one FTE) is recommended.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Additional Provider Requirements for ASAM Level 3.1 Pregnant and Parenting Women Program

In addition to the requirement for ASAM Level 3.1 facilities, Pregnant and Parenting Women Programs must follow additional guidelines and meet specific requirements. (Reference: LAC 48:I.5701.C). Providers must:

1. Offer weekly parenting classes in which attendance is required;
2. Address the specialized needs of the parent;
3. Provide education, counseling and rehabilitation services for its parent members that further address:
 - a. Effects of chemical dependency on a women's health and pregnancy;
 - b. Parenting skills; and
 - c. Health and nutrition.
4. Regularly assess parent-child interactions and address any identified needs in treatment;
5. Provide access to family planning services;
6. Be responsible for ensuring that it provides children supervision appropriate to the age of each child, when the mother is not available to supervise her child. Supervision must be provided either by the provider on-site program or a licensed daycare provider pursuant to a written agreement with the provider. Provider's on-site program must ensure the following requirements are met:

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- a. Staff members are at least 18 years of age;
- b. Staff members have infant CPR certification; and
- c. Staff members have at least eight hours of training in the following areas prior to supervising children:
 - i. Chemical dependency and its impact on the family;
 - ii. Child development and age-appropriate activities;
 - iii. Child health and safety;
 - iv. Universal precautions;
 - v. Appropriate child supervision techniques;
 - vi. Signs of child abuse; or
 - vii. A licensed day care provider pursuant to a written agreement with the provider.
- 7. The provider must maintain a staff-to-child ratio that does not exceed 1:3 for infants (18 months and younger) and 1:6 for toddlers and children;
- 8. Employ a Child Specialist, who is available to provide staff training, evaluate effectiveness of direct care staff, and plan activities for at least one hour per week per child;
- 9. Maintain a personnel file of the Child Specialist has documentation verifying the required minimum of 90 clock hours of education and training in child development and/or early childhood education;
- 10. Maintain verification that the Child Specialist has a minimum of one year documented experience providing services to children;

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11. The provider must address the specialized and therapeutic needs and care for the dependent children and develop an individualized plan of care (POC) to address those needs, to include goals, objectives and target dates; and provide age-appropriate education, counseling, and rehabilitation services for children; and
12. The daily activity schedule for the children must include a variety of structured and unstructured age appropriate activities.

Level 3.5 Clinically Managed Medium Intensity Residential Treatment – Adolescent

These programs are designed to treat persons who have significant social and psychological problems and are characterized by their reliance on the treatment community as a therapeutic agent. Treatment goals are to promote abstinence from substance use and antisocial behavior and to effect a global change in clients' lifestyles, attitudes and values. Individuals typically have multiple deficits, which may include substance-related disorders, criminal activity, psychological problems, impaired functioning and disaffiliation from mainstream values. The program must include an in-house education/vocational component if serving adolescents. (Example: therapeutic community or residential treatment center).

Admission Guidelines (ASAM Level 3.5 Adolescent)

ASAM level 3.5 adolescent services are available to clients who meet the following criteria. The client exhibits the following:

1. **Acute intoxication and/or withdrawal potential** - None or minimal risk of withdrawal;
2. **Biomedical conditions and complications** - None or stable or receiving concurrent medical monitoring;
3. **Emotional, behavioral or cognitive conditions and complications** - Demonstrates repeated inability to control impulses or a personality disorder requires structure to shape behavior. Other functional deficits require a 24-hour setting to teach coping skills. A co-occurring disorder (COD)-enhanced setting is required for severely and persistently mentally ill (SPMI) clients;

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4. **Readiness to change** - Motivational interventions have not succeeded at a less intensive LOC. Has limited insight or awareness into the need for treatment. Has marked difficulty in understanding the relationship between their substance use, addiction, mental health, or life problems and their impaired coping skills and level of functioning that may result in severe life consequences from continued use indicating a need for a 24-hour LOC;
5. **Relapse, continued use or continued problem potential** - Has no recognition of the skills needed to prevent continued use, with imminently dangerous consequences to self or others. Demonstrates a history of repeated incarcerations with a pattern of relapse to substances and uninterrupted use outside of incarceration. Unable to control use of alcohol or other drugs and/or antisocial behaviors with risk of harm to self or others; and
6. **Recovery environment** - Living and social environments has a high risk of neglect or abuse, and client lacks skills to cope outside of a highly structured 24-hour setting.

Screening, Assessment and Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 3.5 Adolescent)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals must be developed in collaboration with the client. The treatment plan is reviewed in collaboration with the client, as needed, or at a minimum of every 30 days or more frequently if indicated by the client's needs and documented accordingly. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements made prior to discharge.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 3.5 Adolescent)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for providers of ASAM Level 3.5 Adolescent.

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Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 3.5 Adolescent)

Facility must have qualified professional medical, nursing and other support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the bio-psychosocial needs of individuals being admitted to the program.

The provider must ensure the following:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. There is a physician on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and on duty as needed for management of psychiatric and medical needs of the clients;
3. There is a psychologist available when needed;
4. There is a clinical supervisor available for clinical supervision when needed and by telephone for consultation;
5. There must be at least one LMHP or unlicensed professional under the supervision of an LMHP on duty at least 40 hours per week;
6. Each LMHP/unlicensed professional's caseload must not exceed 1:8;
7. The provider must have one licensed RN on call 24/7 to perform nursing duties for the provider;
8. Nursing availability on-site whenever needed to meet the nursing needs of the clients. Nursing services may be provided directly by the BHS provider or may be provided or arranged via written contract, agreement, policy, or other document. The BHS provider must maintain documentation of such arrangement;
9. There must be at least two direct care aides on duty (two FTE) during all shifts with additional as needed. The ratio of aides to clients must not exceed 1:8. On therapy outings, the ratio must be at least 1:5;
10. There must be a care coordinator (one FTE per day shift, and/or duties may be assumed by clinical staff); and

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11. There must be a clerical support staff (one FTE per day shift).

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 3.5 Adolescent)

An LMHP, who is a qualified clinical supervisor, must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation. The term ‘supervision’ refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor’s or master’s level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

Licensed, certified or registered clinicians provide a planned regimen of 24-hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment services for individuals and their families.

An activity/occupational therapist is optional.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Level 3.5 Clinically Managed High Intensity Residential Treatment – Adult

The level 3.5 adult residential treatment program is designed to treat persons who have significant social and psychological problems. Level 3.5 programs provide at least 20 hours per week of structured clinical services. Programs are characterized by their reliance on the treatment community as a therapeutic agent. Treatment goals are to promote abstinence from substance use and antisocial behavior and to effect a global change in clients’ lifestyles, attitudes and values. Individuals typically have multiple deficits, which may include substance-related disorders, criminal activity, psychological problems, impaired functioning and disaffiliation from mainstream values. (Example: therapeutic community or residential treatment center).

Admission Guidelines (ASAM Level 3.5 Adult)

Admissions under ASAM Level 3.5 Adult must meet the following criteria:

1. The client has a high likelihood of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or stabilizing loss and requires 24-hour clinical support and supervision to prevent substance use while developing recovery-sustaining skills;
2. The client otherwise meets criteria one and two for treatment at ASAM Level 3.1 but, due to interactions with biomedical conditions and/or psychiatric and cognitive

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conditions, requires 24-hour supervision and/or more intensive clinical services for safety or stability;

3. The client has a high likelihood of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss and requires 24-hour clinical support and supervision to prevent risky SUD-related behaviors while developing recovery-sustaining skills;
4. The client otherwise meets criteria three and four for treatment at ASAM Level 3.1 but, due to interactions with psychiatric and cognitive conditions, requires 24-hour supervision to support safety or stability; and
5. The client's primary concern is SUD and they have very severe functional impairment in life activities (e.g., taking care of household responsibilities and day-to-day work and/or school obligations) and/or social relationships (e.g., creating and maintaining relationships, interacting appropriately with others):
 - a. To learn the basic interpersonal skills and/or skills of independent living necessary to support sustained recovery, the client requires therapist-led habilitative services with a high-intensity therapeutic milieu; and
 - b. The client is assessed as unable to safely and effectively learn these skills in a less intensive treatment setting.

Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 3.5 Adult)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan, which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals must be developed in collaboration with the client. The treatment plan is reviewed in collaboration with the client, as needed, or at a minimum of every 30 days or more frequently if indicated by the client's needs and documented accordingly. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements made prior to discharge.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 3.5 Adult)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for providers of ASAM Level 3.5 Adult.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 3.5 Adult)

The ASAM Level 3.5 Adult provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). Facility must have qualified professional medical, nursing and other support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the biopsychosocial needs of individuals being admitted to the program. In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. There is a physician on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and on duty as needed for management of psychiatric and medical needs of the clients;
3. There is a clinical supervisor available for clinical supervision when needed and by telephone for consultation;
4. There must be at least one LMHP or unlicensed professional under supervision of an LMHP on duty at least 40 hours per week;
5. Each LMHP/unlicensed professional's caseload must not exceed 1:12;
6. The provider must have one licensed RN on call 24/7 to perform nursing duties for the provider;
7. There must be at least two licenses nurses during weekday shifts, and 1.5 full-time equivalent licenses nurses for night and weekend shifts to meet the nursing needs of the clients. Nursing services may be provided directly by the BHS provider or may be provided or arranged via written contract, agreement, policy, or other document. The BHS provider must maintain documentation of such arrangement;
8. There must be at least one direct care aide on duty on all shifts with additional as needed;

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9. There must be a care coordinator (one FTE per day shift, and/or duties may be assumed by clinical staff); and
10. There must be a clerical support staff (one FTE per day shift).

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 3.5 Adult)

An LMHP, who is a qualified clinical supervisor must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation. The term supervision refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor's or master's level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

Licensed, certified or registered clinicians provide a planned regimen of 24-hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment services for individuals and their families.

A psychologist is optional.

An activity/occupational therapist is optional.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Additional Provider Requirements for ASAM Level 3.5 Pregnant and Parenting Women Program

In addition to the requirements for ASAM Level 3.5 facilities, Pregnant and Parenting Women Programs must follow additional guidelines and meet specific requirements (Reference: LAC 48:I.5707.C). Providers must:

1. Offer weekly parenting classes in which attendance is required;
2. Address the specialized needs of the parent;
3. Provide education, counseling and rehabilitation services for its parent members that further address:
 - a. Effects of chemical dependency on a women's health and pregnancy;

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- b. Parenting skills; and
 - c. Health and nutrition.
- 4. Regularly assess parent-child interactions and address any identified needs in treatment;
- 5. Provide access to family planning services;
- 6. Be responsible for ensuring that it provides children supervision appropriate to the age of each child, when the mother is not available to supervise her child. Supervision must be provided either by the provider on-site program or a licensed daycare provider pursuant to a written agreement with the provider. Provider's on-site program must ensure the following requirements are met:
 - a. Staff members are at least 18 years of age;
 - b. Staff members have infant CPR certification; and
 - c. Staff members have at least eight hours of training in the following areas prior to supervising children:
 - i. Chemical dependency and its impact on the family;
 - ii. Child development and age-appropriate activities;
 - iii. Child health and safety;
 - iv. Universal precautions;
 - v. Appropriate child supervision techniques;
 - vi. Signs of child abuse; or
 - vii. A licensed day care provider pursuant to a written agreement with the provider.

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7. The provider must maintain a staff-to-child ratio that does not exceed 1:3 for infants (18 months and younger) and 1:6 for toddlers and children;
8. Employ a Child Specialist, who is available to provide staff training, evaluate effectiveness of direct care staff, and plan activities for at least one hour per week per child;
9. Maintain a personnel file of the Child Specialist has documentation verifying the required minimum of 90 clock hours of education and training in child development and/or early childhood education;
10. Maintain verification that the Child Specialist has a minimum of one year documented experience providing services to children;
11. The provider must address the specialized and therapeutic needs and care for the dependent children and develop an individualized POC to address those needs, to include goals, objectives and target dates; and provide age-appropriate education, counseling, and rehabilitation services for children; and
12. The daily activity schedule for the children must include a variety of structured and unstructured age appropriate activities.

Level 3.7 Medically Managed Residential Treatment – Adult

This COD residential treatment facility provides 24 hour care including psychiatric and substance use assessments, diagnosis, treatment, habilitative and rehabilitation services to individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and substance disorders, whose disorders are of sufficient severity to require a residential LOC. It also features professionally directed evaluation, observation and medical monitoring of addiction and mental health treatment in a residential setting. They feature permanent facilities, including residential beds, and function under a defined set of policies, procedures and clinical protocols. Appropriate for clients whose sub-acute biomedical and emotional, behavioral or cognitive problems are so severe that they require co-occurring capable or enhanced residential treatment, but who do not need the full resources of an acute care general hospital. In addition to meeting integrated service criteria, COD treatment providers must have experience and preferably licensure and/or certification in both addictive disorders and mental health.

Admission Guidelines for ASAM Level 3.7 – Adult

Admissions under Level 3.7 Adult must meet the following criteria:

1. The client’s primary concern is SUD and the client is experiencing severe acute physical health problems (e.g., severe hypotension or severe hypertension) that are explainable based on known history and expected to be controllable at this LOC (e.g., with oral, subcutaneous injection, or intramuscular injection medications), and requires daily medical management and/or nursing care, including after-hours;
2. The client’s primary concern is SUD and the client is experiencing moderately severe acute but not life-threatening physical health problems and requires integrated medical services and/or support that are not available in a less intensive LOC;
3. The client otherwise meets criteria three, four, five, or six for treatment at ASAM Level 2.7 and meets one of the following:
 - a. The client requires daily medical management and/or nursing care, including after-hours, due to exacerbation of their physical health problems from intoxication or withdrawal but is not expected to require the full resources of an acute care hospital;
 - b. The client requires after-hours medical monitoring but lacks sufficient monitoring in their current home environment to adequately support safety after-hours and/or effective participation in intensive outpatient addiction treatment; or
 - c. The client cannot reliably access daily care at ASAM Level 2.7.
4. The client’s primary concern is SUD and the client is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms at a level of acuity and/or complexity that requires active psychiatric management and the client requires after-hours psychiatric management and/or nursing home care to rapidly respond to changes in mental health status;
5. The client otherwise meets criteria seven for treatment at ASAM Level 2.7 and the client’s psychiatric signs and/or symptoms are anticipated to be exacerbated by concerns regarding intoxication, withdrawal, and addiction medications and/or

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biomedical conditions such that the client requires after-hours medical monitoring and/or nursing care, with potential need to rapidly adjust psychiatric medications; or

6. The client otherwise meets criteria seven for treatment at ASAM Level 2.7:
 - a. The client lacks sufficient support in their current home environment to enable effective participation in intensive outpatient addiction treatment; and
 - b. The client lacks sufficient skills and/or readiness to effectively participate in a recovery residence.

Screening/Assessment/Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 3.7 Adult)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

A physician must approve admission. A physical examination must be performed by a physician, physician assistant, or APRN within 24 hours of admission and appropriate laboratory and toxicology tests. A physical examination conducted within 24 hours prior to admission may be used, if reviewed and approved by the admitting physician.

An individualized, interdisciplinary treatment plan, which includes problem formulation and articulation of short-term, measurable treatment goals and activities designed to achieve those goals, shall be developed in collaboration with the client. The treatment plan is reviewed/updated in collaboration with the client, as needed, or at a minimum of every 30 days or as required by the client's needs.

Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements made prior to discharge.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 3.7 Adult)

The ASAM Level 3.7 Adult provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for providers of ASAM Level 3.7 Adult.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 3.7 Adult)

Facility must have qualified professional medical, nursing and other support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the bio-psychosocial needs of individuals being admitted to the program. In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. There is a physician on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and on duty as needed for management of psychiatric and medical needs;
3. There is a clinical supervisor available for clinical supervision when needed and by telephone for consultation;
4. There is at least one LMHP or unlicensed professional under the supervision of an LMHP on duty at least 40 hours/week;
5. Each LMHP/unlicensed professional caseload must not exceed 1:10;
6. There is at least one RN on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week to perform nursing duties and at least one licensed nurse is on duty during all shifts with additional licensed nursing staff to meet the nursing needs of the clients;
7. On-site nursing staff is solely responsible for the 3.7 program and does not provide services for other levels of care at the same time;
8. There is at least one direct care aide on duty on all shifts with additional as needed
9. There is an activity or recreational therapist on duty at least 15 hours per week
10. There must be a care coordinator (one FTE per day shift, and/or duties may be assumed by clinical staff); and
11. There must be a clerical support staff (one FTE per day shift).

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Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 3.7 Adult)

Licensed, certified or registered clinicians provide a planned regimen of 24-hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment services for individuals and their families.

An IDT of appropriately trained clinicians, such as physicians, nurses, counselors, social workers and psychologists is available to assess and treat the individual and to obtain and interpret information regarding the client's needs. The number and disciplines of team members are appropriate to the range and severity of the individual's problems.

A psychologist is optional.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Minimum Standards of Practice (ASAM Level 3.7 Adult)

1. **Toxicology and drug screening** – Toxicology and drug screenings are medically monitored. A physician may waive drug screening if and when individual signs list of drugs being used and understands that their dishonesty could result in severe medical reactions during withdrawal management process;
2. **Stabilization/treatment plan** – A qualified professional must identify the individual's short-term needs based on the withdrawal management history, the medical history and the physical examination, if available, and prepare a plan of action until individual becomes physically stable. The treatment plan must be reviewed and signed by the physician and the individual and must be filed in the individual's record within 24 hours of admission with updates, as needed;
3. **Progress notes** – The program must implement the stabilization/treatment plan and document the individual's response to and/or participation in scheduled activities. Notes must include:
 - a. The individual's physical condition, including vital signs;
 - b. History of present illness;
 - c. The individual's mood and behavior;

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- d. Statements about the individual's condition and needs;
 - e. Information about the individual's progress or lack of progress in relation to stabilization/treatment goals; and
 - f. Additional notes must be documented, as needed.
4. **Physicians' Orders** – Physicians' orders are required for medical and psychiatric management; and
5. **Biomedical capabilities** – programs shall have access to the following biomedical capabilities:
- a. Vitals measurement and monitoring, including pulse oximetry and blood pressure;
 - b. Glucose monitoring;
 - c. Basic first aid;
 - d. Bottle oxygen;
 - e. An automated external defibrillator;
 - f. Basic wound care;
 - g. Mobility assistance;
 - h. Injectable epinephrine;
 - i. Overdose reversal medication (e.g., naloxone);
 - j. Injectable medications (e.g., injectable buprenorphine, extended-release naltrexone);
 - k. Vaccine administration (e.g., hepatitis A and B viruses, influenza, COVID-19);

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- l. Point-of-care pregnancy testing; and
- m. Laboratory and phlebotomy services (access on-site or off-site acceptable) including:
 - i. Access to laboratory services five days per week; and
 - ii. Access to blood culture services.

Level 3.7- WM Medically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management – Adult

Medically managed residential withdrawal management is an organized service delivered by medical and nursing professionals, which provide for 24-hour medically supervised evaluation under a defined set of physician-approved policies and physician-monitored procedures or clinical protocols.

Admission Guidelines (ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult)

Admissions under ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult must meet the following criteria:

1. The client is experiencing or is anticipated to imminently experience severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal that are explainable based on known history and expected to be controllable at this LOC (e.g., with oral, subcutaneous injection, or intramuscular injection medications);
2. The client is experiencing moderately severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal and requires medical services and/or support not available in a less intensive LOC;
3. The client otherwise meets criteria one for treatment at ASAM Level 2.7 and the client has a comorbid physical or co-occurring mental health condition that complicates withdrawal management;
4. The client is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience moderately severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal from alcohol and/or sedative-hypnotics and has a history of complicated withdrawal syndrome-including the development of delirium tremens and/or withdrawal-related seizures-that was controllable with standard treatment interventions; or

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5. The client otherwise meets criteria one for treatment at ASAM Level 2.7 and the client requires monitoring after-hours but lacks sufficient monitoring in their current home environment to support safety after-hours and/or effective participation in intensive outpatient addiction treatment.

Emergency Admissions (ASAM Level 3.7-WM Adult)

The process of admission may be delayed only until the individual can be interviewed but no longer than 24 hours, unless assessed and evaluated by a physician. Facilities are required to orient direct care employees to monitor, observe and recognize early symptoms of serious illness and to access emergency services promptly.

Screening/Assessments/Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

A physician must approve admission. A physical examination must be performed by a physician, physician assistant or APRN within 24 hours of admission and appropriate laboratory and toxicology tests. A physical examination conducted within 24 hours prior to admission may be used, if reviewed and approved by the admitting physician.

An individualized, interdisciplinary stabilization/treatment plan must be developed in collaboration with the client, including problem identification in ASAM Dimensions 2-6. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements made, as needed.

Daily assessment of client's progress, which must be documented accordingly.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult)

In addition to the agency and staff qualifications noted for addiction service providers, the following qualifications are required for providers of ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult)

The ASAM Level 3.7 adult provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). Facility must have qualified professional

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medical, nursing and other support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the biopsychosocial needs of individuals being admitted to the program. In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director (physician);
2. The provider must have a physician on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and on duty as needed for management of psychiatric and medical needs of the clients;
3. The provider must have at least one RN on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week to perform nursing duties;
4. There must be at least one licensed nurse on duty during all shifts with additional as needed based upon the provider's census and the clients' acuity levels;
5. There must be a RN on-site no less than 40 hours per week who is responsible for conducting nursing assessments upon admission and delegating staffing assignments to the nursing staff based on the assessments and the acuity levels of the clients;
6. The provider must ensure that its on-site nursing staff is solely responsible for 3.7-WM program and does not provide services for other levels of care at the same time;
7. The nursing staff is responsible for monitoring client's progress and administering medications in accordance with physician orders;
8. The provider must have a clinical supervisor available for clinical supervision when needed and by telephone for consultation;
9. The LMHP or unlicensed professional under the supervision of an LMHP caseload must not exceed 1:10;
10. At a minimum of one LMHP or unlicensed professional under supervision of an LMHP is available on-site at least 40 hours per week;

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11. There must be at least one direct care aide on all shifts with additional as needed based upon the provider's census and the clients' acuity levels;
12. There must be a care coordinator (one FTE per day shift, and/or duties may be assumed by clinical staff); and
13. There must be a clerical support staff (one FTE per day shift).

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult)

An LMHP, who is qualified clinical supervisor, must be available for clinical supervision as needed and by telephone for consultation as needed. The term supervision refers to clinical support, guidance and consultation afforded to unlicensed staff, and should not be confused with clinical supervision of bachelor's or master's level individuals or provisionally licensed individuals pursuing licensure. Such individuals must comply with current, applicable scope of practice and supervisory requirements identified by their respective licensing boards.

Appropriately licensed and credentialed staff available to administer medications in accordance with physician orders.

Licensed, certified or registered clinicians provide a planned regimen of 24-hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment services for individuals and their families.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Minimum Standards of Practice (ASAM Level 3.7 WM Adult)

1. **Toxicology and drug screening** – Toxicology and drug screenings are medically monitored. A physician may waive drug screening if and when individual signs list of drugs being used and understands that their dishonesty could result in severe medical reactions during withdrawal management process;
2. **Stabilization/treatment plan** – A qualified professional must identify the individual's short-term needs based on the withdrawal management history, the medical history and the physical examination, if available, and prepare a plan of action until individual becomes physically stable. The treatment plan must be reviewed and signed by the physician and the individual and must be filed in the individual's record within 24 hours of admission with updates, as needed;

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3. **Progress notes** – The program must implement the stabilization/treatment plan and document the individual's response to and/or participation in scheduled activities. Notes must include:
 - a. The individual's physical condition, including vital signs;
 - b. The individual's mood and behavior;
 - c. Statements about the individual's condition and needs;
 - d. Information about the individual's progress or lack of progress in relation to stabilization/treatment goals; and
 - e. Additional notes must be documented, as needed.
4. **Physicians' Orders** - Physicians' orders are required for medical and psychiatric management;
5. **Biomedical capabilities** – programs shall have access to the following biomedical capabilities on-site:
 - a. Vitals measurement and monitoring, including pulse oximetry and blood pressure;
 - b. Glucose monitoring;
 - c. Basic first aid;
 - d. Bottle oxygen;
 - e. An automated external defibrillator;
 - f. Basic wound care;
 - g. Mobility assistance;
 - h. Injectable epinephrine;

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- i. Overdose reversal medication (e.g., naloxone);
- j. Injectable medications (e.g., injectable buprenorphine, extended-release naltrexone);
- k. Vaccine administration (e.g., hepatitis A and B viruses, influenza, COVID-19);
- l. Point-of-care pregnancy testing; and
- m. Laboratory and phlebotomy services (access on-site or off-site acceptable) including:
 - i. Access to laboratory services five days per week; and
 - ii. Access to blood culture services.

Level 4: Medically Managed Inpatient Treatment: Addiction Specialty Unit

This hospital LOC is appropriate for those individuals whose acute biomedical, emotional, behavioral and cognitive problems are so severe that they require primary medical and nursing care. This program encompasses a planned regimen of 24-hour medically directed evaluation and withdrawal management in an acute care inpatient setting.

Although treatment is specific to substance use problems, the skills of the IDT and the availability of support services allow the conjoint treatment of any co-occurring biomedical conditions and mental disorders that need to be addressed. A licensed provider providing inpatient treatment must assign one qualified staff for every four clients in residence. The licensed provider must maintain sufficient employees on duty 24-hours a day to meet the needs and protect the safety of clients. Employees on duty must be awake on all shifts. The program must include an in-house education/vocation component, if serving adolescents. A licensed provider providing inpatient treatment must provide a licensed physician or nurse on-site or on call, and licensed medical or nursing staff to monitor and administer medications on a 24-hour per day basis.

Admission Guidelines (ASAM Level 4)

Admissions under ASAM Level 4 must meet the following criteria:

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1. The client is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience very severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal that pose immediate or imminent risk to the client or others;
2. The client is experiencing severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal and requires medical services and/or support that are only available in an acute care setting;
3. The client otherwise meets criteria for treatment at ASAM Level 3.7-WM and has a comorbid physical or co-occurring mental health condition that complicates withdrawal management; or
4. The client is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal from alcohol and/or sedative hypnotics and has a history of complicated withdrawal syndrome – including development of delirium tremens and/or withdrawal-related seizures – that was difficult to control.

Screening/Assessments/Treatment Plan Review (ASAM Level 4)

Refer to *Core Requirements* in the general section.

A physician must give approval for admission. A physical examination must be performed by a physician, physician assistant or NP within 24 hours of admission and appropriate laboratory and toxicology tests. A physical examination conducted within 24 hours prior to admission may be used if reviewed and approved by the admitting physician.

Comprehensive bio-psychosocial assessments are not required for this LOC.

An individualized, interdisciplinary stabilization/treatment plan must be developed in collaboration with the client, including problem identification in ASAM Dimensions 2-6. Daily assessments of client's progress must be documented. Discharge/transfer planning must begin at admission and referral arrangements prior to discharge.

Provider Qualifications (ASAM Level 4)

ASAM Level 4 programs are licensed by LDH as hospitals and must be accredited by an LDH approved national accrediting body: CARF, COA or TJC. Denial, loss of, or any negative change in accreditation status must be reported to their contracted MCOs in writing within 24 hours of notification by the accreditation body.

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Hospitals must comply with Emergency Preparedness regulations associated with 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §482.15 in order to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid program (Link to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Regulation Guidance and Resources: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/index.html>).

Regulations must be implemented by November 15, 2017. They include safeguarding human resources, maintaining business continuity and protecting physical resources. Facilities should incorporate the four core elements of emergency preparedness into their plans and comply with all components of CMS' Rule:

1. **Risk assessment and emergency planning** – Facilities are required to perform a risk assessment that uses an “all-hazards” approach prior to establishing an emergency plan;
2. **Communication plan** – Facilities are required to develop and maintain an emergency preparedness communication plan that complies with both federal and state laws. Client care must be well coordinated within the facility, across healthcare providers, and with state and local public health departments and emergency management agencies and systems to protect client health and safety in the event of a disaster;
3. **Policies and procedures** – Facilities are required by state law, and that support the successful execution of the emergency plan and risks identified during the risk assessment process; and
4. **Training and testing** – Facilities are required to develop and maintain an emergency preparedness training and testing program that complies with federal and state law, and that is updated at least annually.

Staffing Requirements (ASAM Level 4)

The ASAM Level 4 provider shall comply with core staffing requirements within the scope of practice of the license required for the facility or agency to practice in the state of Louisiana. (See Provider Qualifications in the general section). Facility must have qualified professional medical, nursing and other support staff necessary to provide services appropriate to the bio-psychosocial

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needs of individuals being admitted to the program. In addition, the following core staffing requirements for the program must be followed:

1. The provider must have a medical director, who is a physician, on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and on-site as needed for management of psychiatric and medical needs of the clients. Physician's assistants or APRN may perform duties within the scope of their practice as designated by physician;
2. There must be a full time nursing supervisor (APRN/RN) with 24 hour on-call availability;
3. An LMHP or unlicensed professional under supervision of an LMHP is available 40 hours per week;
4. There must be a direct care aide;
5. There must be clerical support staff; and
6. There must be a care coordinator (one FTE per day shift, and/or duties may be assumed by clinical staff).

Additional Staffing and Service Components (ASAM Level 4)

A physician is available to assess the individual within 24 hours of admission (or earlier, if medically necessary) and is available to provide on-site monitoring of care and further evaluation on a daily basis.

A RN or other licensed and credentialed nurse is available on call 24 hours per day and on-site no less than 40 hours per week and will conduct a nursing assessment on individuals at admission.

A nurse is responsible for overseeing the monitoring of the individual's progress and medication administration on an hourly basis, if needed.

Appropriately licensed and credentialed staff is available to administer medications in accordance with physician orders.

Licensed, certified or registered clinicians provide a planned regimen of 24-hour, professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment services for individuals and their families.

A peer specialist is recommended.

Minimum Standards of Practice (ASAM Level 4)

1. **Toxicology and drug screening** – UDSs are required upon admission and as directed by the treatment plan;
2. **Stabilization/treatment plan** – A qualified professional must identify the individual's short-term needs, based on the withdrawal management history, the medical history and the physical examination and prepare a plan of action. The treatment plan must be reviewed and signed by the physician and the individual and must be filed in the individual's record within 24 hours of admission with updates, as needed;
3. **Progress notes** – The program must implement the stabilization/treatment plan and document the individual's response to and/or participation in scheduled activities. Notes must include:
 - a. The individual's physical condition, including vital signs;
 - b. The individual's mood and behavior;
 - c. Statements about the individual's condition and needs;
 - d. Information about the individual's progress or lack of progress in relation to stabilization/treatment goals; and
 - e. Additional notes must be documented, as needed.
4. **Physicians' orders** - Physicians' orders are required for medical and psychiatric management.

Allowed Settings (ASAM Level 4)

Level 4 services are provided in the below settings:

1. General hospital outpatient and inpatient settings for adults and children; and

2. Psychiatric hospital inpatient settings for children under age 21.

Eligibility Criteria (ASAM Level 4)

1. All Medicaid-eligible adults; and
2. All Medicaid-eligible children.

Allowed Mode(s) of Delivery (ASAM Level 4)

1. Inpatient.