

ASAM

American Society of Addiction
Medicine



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE

ASAM

ASAM Mission

Increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment;

Educate physicians (including medical and osteopathic students), other health care providers and the public;

Support research and prevention;

Promote the appropriate role of the physician in the care of patients with addiction;

Establish addiction medicine as a primary specialty recognized by professional organizations, governments, physicians, purchasers and consumers of health care services, and the general public.



ASAM: Roots

- ASAM's Roots: ASAM has its roots in research and clinical traditions that pre-date its founding in the early 1950's, when Ruth Fox, M.D. began regular meeting with other physicians interested in alcoholism and its treatment at the New York Academy of Medicine. In 1954 these physicians established the New York City Medical Society on Alcoholism with Dr. Fox as its first President. As the organization grew, it was subsequently named the American Medical Society of Alcoholism (AMSA).

Definition of Terms:

- Patient Placement Criteria (PPC)
 - These are comprehensive national guidelines for placement, continued stay, and discharge of patients with alcohol and other drug problems.

- Levels of Care:
 - A method of describing a range of treatment services and intensities common in mental health and substance abuse fields

■ Dimension

- Six assessment categories in which client data can be organized. These cover key areas of a patient's life such as health, mental and emotional well-being, family and other environmental factors.

■ Severity

- Extent or degree of a patient's important needs, as determined and evaluated during assessment and treatment planning

■ Criteria

- Written rules, measures or factors that help assessors determine where to place a patient in care

- Continued Stay, Transfer and Discharge Criteria
 - Criteria used after the initial assessment to determine a patient's progress during a treatment episode and to determine the next level of care

Assessment Dimensions

- Acute Intoxication and Withdrawal Potential
 - Assess for intoxication and withdrawal management. Detoxify at the appropriate level of care and prepare for continued addition services.

Biomedical Conditions and Complications

- Assess and treat co-occurring physical health conditions or complications.
Provide treatment at assigned level of care or through coordination of physical health services

Emotional, behavioral or cognitive conditions or complications

- Assess and treat co-occurring mental health conditions or complications. Provide treatment at assigned level of care or through coordination of mental health services

Readiness to Change

- Assess stage of readiness to change. If not ready to commit to full recovery, engage into treatment using motivational enhancement strategies. If ready for recovery, create a recovery treatment plan sensitive to the needs of the patient.

Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problem Potential

- Assess readiness for relapse prevention services and teach relapse prevention skills where appropriate. If still in early stages of change, use motivational enhancement strategies; focus on raising consciousness of consequences of continued use or continued problems

Recovery Environment

- Assess need for specific individualized family or significant other counseling, housing, financial, vocational, educational, legal, cultural, transportation, and child care services

Levels of Care

- Level 0.5, early intervention
- Level I, outpatient services
- Level II, intensive outpatient/partial hospitalization services
- Level III, residential inpatient services
- Level IV, medically-managed intensive inpatient services