



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

Re-Engineering Treatment One Step at a Time

ASAM Level of Care Certification

Webinar Questions and Answers

June 9th, 2020 2pm ET

General

Does the certification verify implementation, or does it only verify meeting the certification requirements?

Surveyors will look at implementation of certain policies and procedures by checking for clinical documentation in a sample of patient records. These policies and procedures are specified in the rating elements.

How many facilities have started the process of obtaining certification? Is there a list of facilities that are already certified?

To see all certified programs, [visit CARF's provider locator](#) and search "ASAM." To find treatment programs capable of delivering a specific level of care, use the advanced search feature to select the appropriate level of care from the "Program" drop down menu.

What are the benefits of obtaining certification?

There are many motivations for obtaining certification. For one, certification demonstrates to the public at large that a program is capable of providing a specific level of care. It also demonstrates to third party payers that a program can provide a specific level of care, helping to decrease conflict between payers and providers about whether a level of care is being delivered to a given patient. It is also part of a larger movement to make addiction treatment more consistent and continuously build on what providers are doing today.

How can I tell if my program meets the certification requirements?

Please reference the rating elements in the [ASAM Level of Care Certification Manual](#).

Are the rating elements and defining/non-defining designations updated each year like CARF standards?

The rating elements and defining designations will be updated every three years.

Is there a timeline for when certification of other levels of care (such as 3.3, PHP, and IOP) will be available?

ASAM is beginning work to expand the certification to other levels of care. This is starting with outreach to stakeholders in the field to obtain an understanding of where the need for certification is greatest.

How does ASAM Level of Care Certification relate to state designations?

ASAM Level of Care Certification is different and separate from any state-level designations. Certification involves an in-person certification survey by a CARF representative.

How long does ASAM Level of Care Certification last?

Once issued, certification is generally effective for three years from the survey end date.

Will use of the ASAM CONTINUUM decision engine be a requirement for certification?

It is not a requirement for certification, but programs may find it a useful tool for ensuring that rating elements for patient assessment, such as those listing items that must be included in assessment, are met.

Is there a difference between Level of Care 3.7 and 3.7-Withdrawal Management (WM)?

Yes, the standards for Level 3.7 treatment and Level 3.7-WM are separate and defined in *The ASAM Criteria* textbook. The current certification only covers Levels of Care 3.1, 3.5, and 3.7. We are hoping to offer certification for the withdrawal management levels soon.

Are payers familiar with ASAM Level of Care Certification? Have any of the payers that use *The ASAM Criteria* indicated that they are going to require facilities to obtain this certification?

The certification has the potential to be used by payers to ensure that programs in their networks have the capacity to provide level(s) of care that the payer is authorizing. It also has the potential to help payers ensure that their networks have sufficient capacity at each level of care. However, we are unaware of specific payers' plans in this regard.

When will resources similar to CARF's accreditation manuals be available?

An ASAM Level of Care Certification Manual and Preparation Workbook are both available today. The manual describes the level of care standards derived from *The ASAM Criteria*; the rating elements that will be assessed during the certification survey; and the policies, procedures, and systems a program should have in place to meet the standards. The workbook walks programs through a self-assessment to help with preparing for the survey. Both publications cover Levels of Care 3.1, 3.5, and 3.7. [Please visit ASAM's website for more information or to purchase.](#)

Pricing and Survey Logistics

Are only CARF-accredited treatment programs eligible for certification?

No, all treatment programs are eligible for certification. Accreditation is independent of certification whether a program is accredited by CARF or the Joint Commission, or not accredited at all.

How much does certification cost?

Certification fees start at \$3,000 for CARF-accredited programs and \$4,000 for other programs seeking certification for one level of care at one location. [Please see the fee schedule for details.](#)

How long is the certification survey?

Each certification is specific to a single location, and the length of the survey varies depending on how many levels of care are surveyed at the location. A survey that includes one or two levels of care will be completed in one day, while a survey that includes three levels of care will be completed in two days.

Are certification and accreditation surveys done concurrently?

No, the certification surveys are conducted at a different time with different surveyors than the CARF accreditation survey.

How long does it take to achieve certification?

Preparation for certification will be different for each organization. In order to ensure the best possible outcome, an organization should approach this as a project, with plans and assigned resources to implement activities. There will certainly need to be a review of internal practices and likely several changes required to existing procedures. There is not a minimum amount of time the practices have to be in place like there is for accreditation, so an organization can move quickly should they desire.

How long does it take to schedule a survey after applying?

As of June 17th, 2020, CARF was not scheduling on-site surveys because of the coronavirus pandemic. Typically, CARF will schedule the survey to occur during the six months following completion of the application process. Best efforts are made to avoid scheduling on problem dates identified in the application and to notify the organization of the specific survey date(s) at least 30 calendar days prior to the survey. CARF will then determine the certification decision based on the survey and issue the decision, Plan of Action form, and certificate (if applicable) approximately six to eight weeks after the survey. [Please see CARF's website for details.](#)

Further Questions?

Please contact us at certification@asam.org