



ASAM

American Society of
Addiction Medicine

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DOCUMENTATION

All Programs

Documentation standards for Level 4 programs include individualized progress notes in each patient's record for every shift. Such notes clearly reflect implementation of the treatment plan and the patient's response to therapeutic interventions for all disorders treated, as well as subsequent amendments to the plan.

The focus of documentation is the degree of stabilization of the patient's substance-related disorder and any concurrent biomedical, emotional, behavioral, or cognitive problem(s). Documentation also focuses on the elements of the treatment plan that are related to case management and coordination of care to ensure a smooth transition to continuing service or another level of care.



ADULT DIAGNOSTIC ADMISSION CRITERIA

All Programs

The patient who is appropriately placed in a Level 4 program is assessed as meeting the diagnostic criteria for a substance use or substance-induced disorder, as defined in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association or other standardized and widely accepted criteria, as well as the dimensional criteria for admission.

If the patient's presenting alcohol or other drug use history is inadequate to substantiate such a diagnosis, the probability of such a diagnosis may be determined from information submitted by collateral parties (such as family members, legal guardians, and significant others).

Co-Occurring Capable Programs

Some patients have co-occurring mental disorders that meet stability criteria for admission to a co-occurring capable program. Other patients may have difficulties with mood, behavior, or cognition as the result of other psychiatric or substance-induced disorders, or the patient's emotional, behavioral, or cognitive symptoms may be troublesome but not sufficient to meet the criteria for a diagnosed mental disorder.

Co-Occurring Enhanced Programs

In contrast to the diagnostic criteria described above for co-occurring capable programs, the patient who is appropriately placed in a Level 4 co-occurring enhanced program is assessed as meeting the diagnostic criteria for a mental disorder as well as a substance use or substance-induced disorder, as defined in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association or other standardized and widely accepted criteria, as well as the dimensional criteria for admission.

If the patient's presenting history is inadequate to substantiate such a diagnosis, the probability of such a diagnosis may be determined from information submitted by collateral parties (such as family members, legal guardians, and significant others).



ADULT DIMENSIONAL ADMISSION CRITERIA

All Programs

The patient who is appropriately admitted to a Level 4 program meets specifications in at least **one** of Dimensions 1, 2, or 3.

1

DIMENSION 1:

Acute Intoxication and/or
Withdrawal Potential

All Programs

See separate withdrawal management chapter for how to approach “unbundled” withdrawal management for adults.

2

DIMENSION 2:

Biomedical Conditions and
Complications

All Programs

The patient’s status in Dimension 2 is characterized by at least **one** of the following:

- a. Biomedical complications of the addictive disorder require medical management and skilled nursing care;
or
- b. A concurrent biomedical illness or pregnancy requires stabilization and daily medical management, with daily primary nursing interventions;
or
- c. The patient has a concurrent biomedical condition(s) (including pregnancy) in which continued alcohol or other drug use presents an imminent danger to life or severe danger to health;
or
- d. The patient is experiencing recurrent or multiple seizures;
or
- e. The patient is experiencing a disulfiram-alcohol reaction;
or
- f. The patient has life-threatening symptoms (such as stupor or convulsions) that are related to use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs;
or
- g. The patient’s alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drug use is gravely complicating or exacerbating a previously diagnosed medical condition;
or
- h. Changes in the patient’s medical status, such as significant worsening of a medical condition, make abstinence imperative;
or
- i. Significant improvement in a previously unstable medical condition allows the patient to respond to addiction treatment;
or
- j. The patient has (an)other biomedical problem(s) that requires 24-hour observation and evaluation.

3

DIMENSION 3:

Emotional, Behavioral, or
Cognitive Conditions and
Complications

All Programs

The patient whose status in Dimension 3 is characterized by stabilized emotional, behavioral, or cognitive conditions is appropriately assessed as in need of Level 4 co-occurring capable program services.

On the other hand, if the patient’s symptoms in Dimension 3 are so severe as to require admission to a Level 4 program, then only a co-occurring enhanced program is sufficient to meet the patient’s needs.

ADULT DIMENSIONAL ADMISSION CRITERIA (CONTINUED)

All Programs

The patient who is appropriately admitted to a Level 4 program meets specifications in at least **one** of Dimensions 1, 2, or 3.

3

DIMENSION 3:

Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications

Co-Occurring Enhanced Programs

For admission to a Level 4 co-occurring enhanced program, the patient's status in Dimension 3 is characterized by at least **one** of the following:

- a. Emotional, behavioral, or cognitive complications of the patient's addictive disorder require psychiatric management and skilled nursing care;
or
- b. A concurrent emotional, behavioral, or cognitive illness requires stabilization, daily psychiatric management, and primary nursing interventions;
or
- c. The patient's uncontrolled behavior poses an imminent danger to self or others;
or
- d. The patient's mental confusion or fluctuating orientation poses an imminent danger to self or others (for example, severe self-care problems, violence, or suicide);
or
- e. A concurrent serious emotional, behavioral, or cognitive disorder complicates the treatment of addiction and requires differential diagnosis and treatment;
or
- f. The patient's extreme depression poses an imminent risk to his or her safety;
or
- g. Impairment of the patient's thought processes or abstract thinking, limitations in his or her ability to conceptualize, and impairment in the patient's ability to manage the activities of daily living pose an imminent risk to his or her safety;
or
- h. The patient's continued alcohol, tobacco, and/or drug use is causing grave complications or exacerbation of a previously diagnosed psychiatric, emotional, or behavioral condition;
or
- i. The patient is experiencing altered mental status, with or without delirium, as manifested by: (1) disorientation to self, or (2) alcoholic hallucinosis, or (3) toxic psychosis.

4

DIMENSION 4:

Readiness to Change

All Programs

Only a patient who meets criteria in Dimensions 1, 2, or 3 is appropriately placed in a Level 4 program. Problems in Dimension 4 alone are not sufficient for placement at Level 4.

5

DIMENSION 5:

Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problem Potential

All Programs

Only a patient who meets criteria in Dimensions 1, 2, or 3 is appropriately placed in a Level 4 program. Problems in Dimension 5 alone are not sufficient for placement at Level 4.

6

DIMENSION 6:

Recovery Environment

All Programs

Only a patient who meets criteria in Dimensions 1, 2, or 3 is appropriately placed in a Level 4 program. Problems in Dimension 6 alone are not sufficient for placement at Level 4.