

# THE ASAM CRITERIA



## Appendix D

# Dimensional Admission Criteria Decision Rules

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

### INTOXICATION AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

**Level 4 =  
Risk Rating 4**

1. The patient is experiencing very severe signs and/or symptoms of intoxication that pose immediate or imminent risk to the patient or others.
- OR**
2. The patient is experiencing severe signs and/or symptoms of intoxication—or signs and/or symptoms that are unexplained given known substance use—and requires integrated medical services and/or support that are only available in an acute care setting.
- OR**
3. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience\* severe signs and/or symptoms in the context of intoxication that a Level 3.7 BIO program is *not* expected to be able to control (eg, due to co-occurring physical and/or mental health conditions).

\* For example, the patient is known to have ingested a quantity of a substance that is likely to pose an imminent risk.

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

## INTOXICATION AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

**Minimum  
Level 3.7  
BIO =**  
Risk Rating 3B

1. The patient is experiencing moderately severe to severe signs and/or symptoms of intoxication.  
AND  
The patient requires IV medications.

**Minimum  
Level 3.7  
(non-BIO) =**  
Risk Rating 3A

1. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience moderately severe to severe signs and/or symptoms of intoxication that otherwise meet *Intoxication and Associated Risks* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.  
AND  
The patient requires after-hours medical management and/or nursing care.

» Level 3.7 (non-BIO) does *not* provide IV medications. If a patient requires these services, they should be placed in a minimum of Level 3.7 BIO.

**Minimum  
Level 2.7 =**  
Risk Rating 2

1. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience moderately severe to severe signs and/or symptoms of intoxication that are explainable based on known history and require medical management and/or nursing care but are expected to be controllable at this level of care (eg, with oral, subcutaneous [SQ], or intramuscular [IM] medications).  
AND  
The patient does not pose an immediate or imminent risk to self or others.

**Any Level  
of Care =**  
Risk Rating  
ANY

1. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience mild to moderate signs and/or symptoms of intoxication that can be addressed in any level of care as needed (eg, with behavioral management strategies) and, thus, does *not* require a medically managed addiction treatment program for intoxication management.

**No Specific  
Needs =**  
Risk Rating 0

1. The patient is not intoxicated.

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

## WITHDRAWAL AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

Level 4 =  
Risk Rating 4

1. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience very severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal that pose immediate or imminent risk to the patient or others.

**OR**

2. The patient 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.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Withdrawal and Associated Risks* criteria for treatment at Level 3.7 or 3.7 BIO.

AND

The patient has a comorbid physical or co-occurring mental health condition that complicates withdrawal management.

**OR**

4. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal from alcohol and/or sedative-hypnotics.

AND

The patient has a history of complicated withdrawal syndrome—including development of delirium tremens and/or withdrawal-related seizures—that was difficult to control.

Minimum  
Level 3.7  
BIO =  
Risk Rating 3B

1. The patient is experiencing moderately severe to severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal as described in *Withdrawal and Associated Risks* criteria for Level 2.7 or 3.7.

AND

The patient requires IV medications.

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

## WITHDRAWAL AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

Minimum  
Level 3.7  
(non-BIO) =  
Risk Rating 3A

1. The patient 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 level of care (eg, with oral, SQ, or IM medications).

» Level 3.7 (non-BIO) does *not* provide IV medications. If a patient requires these services, they should be placed in a minimum of Level 3.7 BIO.

**OR**

2. The patient is experiencing moderately severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal and requires medical services and/or support not available in a less intensive level of care.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Withdrawal and Associated Risks* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.

AND

The patient has a comorbid physical or co-occurring mental health condition that complicates withdrawal management.

**OR**

4. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience moderately severe signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal from alcohol and/or sedative-hypnotics.

AND

The patient 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**

5. The patient otherwise meets *Withdrawal and Associated Risks* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.

AND

The patient 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 (Dimension 5).

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

## WITHDRAWAL AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

**Minimum  
Level 2.7 =  
Risk Rating 2**

1. The patient 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 level of care (eg, with oral, SQ, or IM medications).

AND

The patient requires medical management with extended nursing care available during business hours.

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Withdrawal and Associated Risk* criteria for treatment at Level 1.7.

AND

The patient and/or their available support persons are unable to follow instructions necessary to support withdrawal management in a Level 1.7 program but can reliably access services in a Level 2.7 program.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Withdrawal and Associated Risks* criteria for treatment at Level 1.7.

AND

The patient has needs in Dimensions 2 and/or 3 that require closer nurse monitoring (eg, due to potential medication interactions).

**Minimum  
Level 1.7 =  
Risk Rating 1**

1. The patient 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.

AND

The patient has minimal risk of severe withdrawal.

AND

The patient requires frequent (ie, more than weekly) check-ins during the acute withdrawal phase but does *not* require extended nursing care.

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

## WITHDRAWAL AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

**Prompt  
Evaluation =**  
Risk Rating  
EVAL

1. The patient is experiencing or anticipated to imminently experience mild signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal that can be addressed in any level of care as needed (eg, with behavioral management strategies, through referral to a qualified medical provider) and, thus, requires prompt medical evaluation but *not* integrated medical management and/or nursing care for signs and/or symptoms of withdrawal.

**No Specific  
Needs =**  
Risk Rating 0

1. The patient has no specific treatment needs related to withdrawal.

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

## ADDICTION MEDICATION NEEDS

**Minimum  
Level 3.7 =**  
Risk Rating C

1. Initiation or titration of addiction medication is anticipated to be complex, requiring daily medical management and/or nursing care, including after-hours.

**OR**

2. The patient is pregnant and otherwise meets *Addiction Medication Needs* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.

**Minimum  
Level 2.7 =**  
Risk Rating B

1. Initiation or titration of addiction medication is anticipated to be complex, requiring daily or near-daily medical management and/or extended nursing care.

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Addiction Medication Needs* criteria for treatment at Level 1.7.

AND

The patient has needs in Dimensions 2 and/or 3 that require closer nurse monitoring (eg, due to potential medication interactions).

## Dimension 1: Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

## ADDICTION MEDICATION NEEDS

**Minimum  
Level 1.7 =  
Risk Rating A**

1. The patient has OUD and is not currently on MOUD.

AND

Uncomplicated MOUD initiation is anticipated.

**OR**

2. The patient has a history of poor outcomes with clinically managed care and requires frequent (ie, more than weekly) medical management to initiate medications to stabilize signs and symptoms of SUD (eg, cravings, post-acute withdrawal) and prevent recurrence.

AND

The patient is assessed as *not* able to achieve recovery without integrated medical management.

**Prompt  
Evaluation =  
Risk Rating  
EVAL**

1. The patient has a history of difficulty with clinically managed addiction care and requires prompt medical evaluation for addiction medications to stabilize their signs and symptoms of SUD (eg, cravings, post-acute withdrawal) and prevent recurrence.

AND

The patient is not expected to require frequent (ie, more than weekly) medical management to initiate and titrate addiction medications.

**MOUD  
Continuation =  
Risk Rating  
MOUD-C**

1. The patient is currently taking MOUD and needs to continue this medication, requiring care coordination but not direct provision by the addiction treatment program.

**Any Level  
of Care =  
Risk Rating  
ANY**

1. The patient's addiction medication needs, if any, can be addressed in any level of care.



## Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions

### PHYSICAL HEALTH CONCERNS

**Level 4 =  
Risk Rating 4**

1. The patient is experiencing very severe physical health problems that require acute hospital care.

**OR**

2. The patient is experiencing severe physical health problems and requires medical services that are only available in an acute care setting.

**OR**

3. The patient is experiencing severe acute physical health problems that are currently undiagnosed and/or not expected to be controllable with the interventions available in a Level 3.7 BIO program.

**OR**

4. The patient is experiencing severe acute physical health problems that otherwise meet *Physical Health Concerns* criteria for treatment at Level 3.7 or 3.7 BIO.

AND

The patient has needs in Dimension 1 and/or Dimension 3 that complicate management of physical health problems.

**Minimum  
Level 3.7  
BIO =  
Risk Rating 3B**

1. The patient is experiencing severe physical health problems as described in the *Physical Health Concerns* criteria for Level 3.7.

AND

The patient requires IV medications or wound vacuum-assisted closure (VAC).

## Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions

## PHYSICAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Minimum  
Level 3.7  
(non-BIO) =  
Risk Rating 3A

1. The patient is experiencing severe acute physical health problems that are explainable based on known history and expected to be controllable at this level of care (eg, with oral, SQ, or IM medications).

AND

The patient requires daily medical management and/or nursing care, including after-hours.

**OR**

2. The patient 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 level of care.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Physical Health Concerns* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.

AND

The patient 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 (Dimension 1).

**OR**

4. The patient otherwise meets *Physical Health Concerns* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.

AND

The patient 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 (Dimension 5).

**OR**

5. The patient otherwise meets *Physical Health Concerns* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.

AND

The patient cannot reliably access daily care at Level 2.7.

## Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions

## PHYSICAL HEALTH CONCERNS

**Minimum  
Level 2.7 =  
Risk Rating 2**

1. The patient is 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 level of care (eg, with oral, SQ, or IM medications).  
AND  
The patient requires frequent (ie, daily or near-daily) medical management and/or nursing care.  
AND  
The patient *cannot* reliably access external medical treatment to adequately address their physical health needs; **and/or** the patient is assessed as needing integrated medical services.

**OR**

2. The patient is experiencing moderate acute health problems and requires integrated medical services and/or support that are not available in a less intensive level of care.

**OR**

3. The patient is experiencing moderate physical health problems (eg, complex partial seizure disorder, hypertension, diabetes) that otherwise meet *Physical Health Concerns* criteria for treatment at Level 1.7.  
AND  
The patient requires extended nursing care during program hours due to exacerbation of their physical health problems from intoxication or withdrawal (Dimension 1).

**Minimum  
Level 1.7 =  
Risk Rating 1**

1. The patient is experiencing moderate acute health problems that impact daily functioning and/or interfere with addiction treatment and recovery.  
AND  
The patient requires frequent (ie, more than weekly) medical services in the short term (eg, medication initiation and/or adjustment).  
AND  
The patient *cannot* reliably access external medical treatment to adequately address their physical health needs; **and/or** the patient is assessed as needing integrated medical services.

## Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions

## PHYSICAL HEALTH CONCERNS

**Any Level  
of Care =**  
Risk Rating  
ANY

1. The patient is experiencing mild to moderate physical health problems that can be addressed in any level of care (eg, through referral or care coordination) and, thus, does *not* require a medically managed level of care.

**No Specific  
Needs =**  
Risk Rating 0

1. The patient has no specific treatment needs related to physical health concerns.

## Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions

## PREGNANCY-RELATED CONCERNS

**Level 4 =**  
Risk Rating 4

1. The patient's pregnancy is immediately or imminently unstable and requires fetal monitoring, 24-hour medical management, and/or the full resources of an acute care hospital.

**Minimum  
Level 3.7 =**  
Risk Rating 3

1. The patient otherwise meets the *Pregnancy-Related Concerns* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7.  
AND  
The patient requires after-hours 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 (Dimension 5).

**Minimum  
Level 2.7 =**  
Risk Rating 2

1. The patient 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.

**Minimum  
Level 1.7 =**  
Risk Rating 1

1. The patient is pregnant with low to average risk of experiencing pregnancy complications and requires on-site provision of prenatal care because they are unwilling or unable to reliably access care from an external provider.

## Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions

### PREGNANCY-RELATED CONCERNS

**Any Level  
of Care =  
Risk Rating  
ANY**

1. The patient is pregnant with low to average risk of experiencing pregnancy complications and does *not* require on-site provision of prenatal care because they are willing and able to reliably access care from an external provider.

**No Specific  
Needs =  
Risk Rating 0**

1. The patient is not pregnant.

## Dimension 3: Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

### ACTIVE PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

**Level 4  
Psychiatric =  
Risk Rating 4**

1. The patient is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms that pose immediate or imminent risk of serious harm to the patient (eg, severe deterioration) or others and requires urgent psychiatric management, 24-hour psychiatric nursing care, and/or a secure psychiatric setting.\*

**OR**

2. The patient is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms that otherwise meet admission criteria for inpatient psychiatric hospitalization (ie, Level 4 Psychiatric).

**OR**

3. The patient meets *Active Psychiatric Symptoms* criteria for treatment at Level 3.7 COE.

AND

The patient's psychiatric signs and/or symptoms are expected to be exacerbated by intoxication, withdrawal, and/or comorbid Dimension 2 concerns and require more intensive psychiatric management and/or nursing care than can be provided in a less intensive care setting to maintain safety.

\* If the patient meets admission criteria in Dimension 3 for Level 4 Psychiatric care **and** in Dimensions 1 and/or 2 for Level 3.7 BIO or 4 care, the patient should be treated in a Level 4 acute care medical unit or medical psychiatric unit, if available. If needed, transition to an inpatient psychiatric unit (ie, Level 4 Psychiatric) may be appropriate once the patient's intoxication, withdrawal, or biomedical conditions have been stabilized.

**Minimum  
Level 3.7  
COE =  
Risk Rating 3B**

1. The patient is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms at a level of acuity and/or complexity that requires active psychiatric management.

AND

The patient requires after-hours psychiatric management and/or nursing care to rapidly respond to changes in mental health status.

**OR**

2. The patient is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms that would otherwise meet criteria for a subacute psychiatric residential treatment setting (eg, Level 5 in LOCUS).\*

*continued*

\* If the patient has a mild SUD per *DSM-5-TR* criteria and severe psychiatric concerns, their Dimension 3 concerns may be treated primarily in the mental health system.

## Dimension 3: Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

## ACTIVE PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

Minimum  
Level 3.7  
COE =

Risk Rating 3B  
*continued*

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Active Psychiatric Symptoms* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7 COE.

AND

The patient's psychiatric signs and/or symptoms are anticipated to be exacerbated by concerns in Dimensions 1 and/or 2 such that the patient requires after-hours medical monitoring and/or nursing care, with potential need to rapidly adjust psychiatric medications.

**OR**

4. The patient otherwise meets *Active Psychiatric Symptoms* criteria for treatment at Level 2.7 COE.

AND

The patient lacks sufficient support in their current home environment to enable effective participation in intensive outpatient addiction treatment (Dimension 5).

AND

The patient lacks sufficient skills and/or readiness to effectively participate in a recovery residence.

Minimum  
Level 3.5  
COE =

Risk Rating 3A

1. The patient is experiencing mental health signs and/or symptoms at a level of acuity and/or complexity impacting safety and/or function that requires intensive skilled mental health-focused interventions and/or readily available access to psychiatric oversight.

AND

The patient requires residential support or supervision to monitor for changes in status and rapidly respond to mental health concerns that may arise, but they have sufficient control to not require an acute or medically managed psychiatric setting.

AND

The patient's psychiatric medication regimen (if any) does *not* require frequent (ie, more than weekly) or urgent medical management and/or nursing care.

*continued*

## Dimension 3: Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

## ACTIVE PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

Minimum  
Level 3.5  
COE =

Risk Rating 3A  
*continued*

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Active Psychiatric Symptoms* criteria for treatment at Level 2.5 COE.

AND

The patient lacks sufficient support in their current home environment and/or adequate functional skills to enable effective participation in clinically managed outpatient addiction treatment (Dimension 5).

AND

The patient lacks sufficient skills and/or readiness to effectively participate in a recovery residence.

Minimum  
Level 2.7  
COE =

Risk Rating 2B

1. The patient is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms at a level of acuity and complexity that interferes with addiction treatment and recovery.

AND

The patient requires frequent (ie, daily or near-daily) psychiatric management and/or nursing care to achieve sufficient stability to enable effective participation in addiction treatment.

AND

The patient 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

The patient *cannot* reliably access external psychiatric care to adequately address their mental health needs, **and/or** the patient is assessed as requiring integrated skilled mental health interventions to permit participation in addiction treatment.

**OR**

2. The patient meets *Active Psychiatric Symptoms* criteria for treatment at Level 1.7 COE.

AND

The patient's psychiatric signs and/or symptoms are likely to be exacerbated by intoxication, withdrawal, and/or comorbid Dimension 2 concerns and require daily or near-daily psychiatric management and/or nursing care (eg, due to the potential need for frequent medication adjustment).



## Dimension 3: Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

## ACTIVE PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

Minimum  
Level 2.5  
COE =  
Risk Rating 2A

1. The patient is experiencing mental health signs and/or symptoms at a level of acuity that requires daily or near-daily clinical management of symptoms with a higher level of individualized staff support and skilled mental health interventions than provided at a standard (ie, co-occurring capable) level of care to address mental health signs and/or symptoms and maintain stability during addiction treatment.

AND

The patient 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

The patient's psychiatric medication regimen (if any) does not require frequent (ie, more than weekly) or urgent medical management and/or nursing care.

AND

The patient *cannot* reliably access external mental health care to adequately address their mental health needs, **and/or** the patient is assessed as requiring integrated skilled mental health interventions to permit participation in addiction treatment.

Minimum  
Level 1.7  
COE =  
Risk Rating 1C

1. The patient is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms at a level of acuity and complexity that interfere with addiction treatment and recovery.

AND

The patient requires initiation or frequent (ie, more than weekly) adjustment of psychiatric medications, and psychotropic medication management is expected to be complicated (eg, titration of multiple psychotropic medications, known risks for significant adverse effects) such that psychiatric management is required.

AND

The patient *cannot* reliably access external psychiatric care to adequately address their mental health needs, **and/or** the patient is assessed as requiring integrated skilled mental health interventions to enable effective participation in addiction treatment.

### Dimension 3: Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

#### ACTIVE PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

**Minimum  
Level 1.7 =  
Risk Rating 1B**

1. The patient is experiencing psychiatric signs and/or symptoms of low to moderate acuity and low complexity that may interfere with addiction treatment and recovery.

AND

The patient requires psychiatric medication initiation or adjustment, psychotropic medication management is expected to be uncomplicated (eg, no known risks for significant adverse effects), and the patient does *not* require integrated skilled mental health interventions.

AND

The patient is unable to access adequate and/or timely psychiatric medication management from a qualified external provider and/or is assessed as requiring integrated psychiatric management (eg, lacking sufficient motivation to follow through with off-site psychiatric appointments).

AND

The patient is able to sufficiently adhere to their psychiatric medication regimens and report effects and side effects to their prescriber during the adjustment phase without the need for regular monitoring or intervention by specialty psychiatric staff.

**OR**

2. The patient is receiving psychiatric medication management externally but requires active comanagement and care coordination from a physician or advanced practice provider with specialty addiction treatment experience due to potential risks associated with prescribed psychiatric medications (eg, when controlled medications are considered, or when there is concern for interactions between the medications prescribed for the patient's SUD and psychiatric conditions).

## Dimension 3: Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

## ACTIVE PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

Minimum  
Level 1.5  
COE =  
Risk Rating 1A

1. The patient is experiencing mental health signs and/or symptoms (eg, personality disorder, social anxiety) that present challenges with effective participation in standard (ie, co-occurring capable) addiction treatment, such as managing the interpersonal intensity of group therapy and/or a therapeutic milieu; these mental health concerns require non-intensive (ie, less than three days per week) individualized support and redirection and/or integrated skilled mental health interventions to enable effective participation in addiction treatment.

AND

The patient is unwilling or unable to access mental health care externally, or they are not receiving sufficient external care to enable participation in standard (ie, co-occurring capable) treatment.

AND

The patient's mental health signs and/or symptoms do *not* require integrated medical management and/or nursing care.

Any Level  
of Care =  
Risk Rating  
ANY

1. The patient is experiencing active mild to moderate mental health signs and/or symptoms that can be addressed in any level of care with direct symptom management support or referral. Skilled mental health services (eg, medication management, psychotherapeutic interventions) are not required with such urgency to preclude engagement in addiction treatment while those services are being coordinated.

**OR**

2. The patient is experiencing significant mental health concerns for which they are already receiving external mental health care with an appropriate level of medication management and/or therapeutic intervention for the acuity and complexity of their concerns.

AND

The patient does not require integrated mental health or psychiatric treatment services to enable participation in addiction treatment.

No Specific  
Needs =  
Risk Rating 0

1. The patient has no specific treatment needs related to active psychiatric signs or symptoms.

### Dimension 3: Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

#### PERSISTENT DISABILITY

**Minimum  
Level 1.5  
COE =**  
Risk Rating 1Z

1. The patient, at baseline, has impairments in their ability to process information, organize schedules, and/or participate in group therapy due to persistent mental health symptoms or disability, intellectual and/or developmental disability, acquired brain injury, or neurodiversity.

AND

The patient requires a more flexible treatment environment with greater individualized staff support and/or staff with a higher level of training in skills to support mental health treatment, address symptoms, or assist with functioning than are available in a standard (ie, co-occurring capable) level of care.

**Any Level  
of Care =**  
Risk Rating  
ANY

1. The patient has persistent mental health-related or cognitive disability—including acquired brain injury, intellectual and/or developmental disability, or neurodiversity—that may require some level of support to enable effective participation in addiction treatment. However, the patient does *not* require more individualized staff support than provided in a standard (ie, co-occurring capable) program nor integration of skilled mental health interventions into the addiction treatment program to address their persistent mental health disability.

**No Specific  
Needs =**  
Risk Rating 0

1. The patient has no specific treatment needs related to persistent disability.

## Dimension 4: Substance Use-Related Risks

### LIKELIHOOD OF ENGAGING IN RISKY SUBSTANCE USE

**Minimum  
Level 3.5 =  
Risk Rating E**

1. The patient has a *high likelihood* of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient requires 24-hour clinical support and supervision to prevent substance use while developing recovery-sustaining skills.

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky Substance Use* criteria for treatment at Level 3.1 but, due to interactions with Dimensions 2 and/or 3, requires 24-hour supervision and/or more intensive clinical services for safety or stability.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky Substance Use* criteria for treatment at Level 2.5 but, due to interactions with Dimensions 3 and/or 5, requires 24-hour support and supervision to promote safety and stability **and/or** the patient requires residential support to enable effective participation in care *and* is assessed as unable to safely and/or effectively engage in outpatient care with recovery residence support.

**Minimum  
Level 3.1 =  
Risk Rating D**

1. The patient has a *moderate likelihood* of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient 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.

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky Substance Use* criteria for treatment at Level 2.1 but, due to interactions with Dimensions 2, 3, and/or 5, requires 24-hour clinically managed structure and support for additional stability **and/or** the patient 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.

## Dimension 4: Substance Use-Related Risks

## LIKELIHOOD OF ENGAGING IN RISKY SUBSTANCE USE

**Minimum  
Level 2.5 =  
Risk Rating C**

1. The patient has a *moderate likelihood* of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient is assessed as able to develop relapse prevention skills and prevent substance use with daily or near-daily high-intensity clinical services with a therapeutic milieu.

**OR**

2. The patient has a *high likelihood* of engaging in substance use with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences.

AND

The patient requires daily or near-daily high-intensity clinical services with a therapeutic milieu to develop relapse prevention skills.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky Substance Use* criteria for treatment at Level 2.1 but, due to interactions with Dimensions 3 and/or 5, requires more intensive clinical services and/or a more consistent (ie, daily or near-daily) therapeutic milieu to achieve recovery goals.

**Minimum  
Level 2.1 =  
Risk Rating B**

1. The patient has a *low likelihood* of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient 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.

**OR**

2. The patient has a *moderate likelihood* of engaging in substance use with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences.

AND

The patient requires intensive clinical services several times per week and/or a low-intensity therapeutic milieu to achieve recovery goals.

*continued*

## Dimension 4: Substance Use-Related Risks

## LIKELIHOOD OF ENGAGING IN RISKY SUBSTANCE USE

Minimum  
Level 2.1 =  
Risk Rating B  
*continued*

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky Substance Use* criteria for treatment at Level 1.5 but, due to interactions with Dimensions 2, 3, and/or 5, requires more clinical service hours per week to support stability.

Minimum  
Level 1.5 =  
Risk Rating A

1. The patient has a *very low likelihood* of engaging in substance use with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient is assessed as able to prevent substance use and achieve recovery goals with non-intensive clinical services.

**OR**

2. The patient has a *low likelihood* of engaging in substance use with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences.

AND

The patient requires occasional clinical services to consolidate recovery goals.

## Dimension 4: Substance Use-Related Risks

## LIKELIHOOD OF ENGAGING IN RISKY SUD-RELATED BEHAVIORS

Minimum  
Level 3.5 =  
Risk Rating E

1. The patient has a *high likelihood* of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient requires 24-hour clinical support and supervision to prevent risky SUD-related behaviors while developing recovery-sustaining skills.

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky SUD-Related Behaviors* criteria for treatment at Level 3.1 but, due to interactions with Dimension 3, requires 24-hour supervision to support safety or stability.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky SUD-Related Behaviors* criteria for treatment at Level 2.5 but, due to interactions with Dimensions 3 and/or 5, requires 24-hour clinical supervision to support stability **and/or** the patient 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.

Minimum  
Level 3.1 =  
Risk Rating D

1. The patient has a *moderate likelihood* of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient 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.

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky SUD-Related Behaviors* criteria for treatment at Level 2.1 but, due to interactions with Dimensions 3 and/or 5, requires 24-hour clinically managed structure and support for additional stability **and/or** the patient 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.



## Dimension 4: Substance Use-Related Risks

## LIKELIHOOD OF ENGAGING IN RISKY SUD-RELATED BEHAVIORS

**Minimum  
Level 2.5 =  
Risk Rating C**

1. The patient has a *moderate likelihood* of engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient is assessed as able to develop recovery-sustaining skills and prevent risky SUD-related behaviors with daily or near-daily high-intensity clinical services and a therapeutic milieu.

**OR**

2. The patient has a *high likelihood* of engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences.

AND

The patient requires daily or near-daily high-intensity clinical services with a therapeutic milieu to learn risky behavior prevention skills.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky SUD-Related Behaviors* criteria for treatment at Level 2.1 but, due to interactions with Dimension 3, requires more intensive clinical services and/or a more consistent (ie, daily or near-daily) therapeutic milieu to achieve recovery goals.

**Minimum  
Level 2.1 =  
Risk Rating B**

1. The patient has a *low likelihood* of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with significant risk of serious harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient 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.

**OR**

2. The patient has a *moderate likelihood* of engaging in SUD-related behaviors with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences.

AND

The patient requires intensive clinical services several times per week and/or a low-intensity therapeutic milieu to achieve recovery goals.

*continued*

## Dimension 4: Substance Use-Related Risks

## LIKELIHOOD OF ENGAGING IN RISKY SUD-RELATED BEHAVIORS

Minimum  
Level 2.1 =  
Risk Rating B  
*continued*

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Likelihood of Engaging in Risky SUD-Related Behaviors* criteria for treatment at Level 1.5 but, due to interactions with Dimension 3, requires more clinical service hours per week to support stability.

Minimum  
Level 1.5 =  
Risk Rating A

1. The patient has a *very low likelihood* of engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with risk of significant harm or destabilizing loss.

AND

The patient is assessed as able to avoid engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with non-intensive (ie, less than three days per week) clinical services.

**OR**

2. The patient has a *low likelihood* of engaging in risky SUD-related behaviors with risk of negative but not seriously destabilizing consequences.

AND

The patient requires occasional clinical services to consolidate recovery goals.

No Specific  
Needs =  
Risk Rating 0

1. The patient has no specific treatment needs related to risky SUD-related behaviors.

## Dimension 5: Recovery Environment Interactions

### ABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

**Minimum  
Level 3.5 =  
Risk Rating D**

1. The patient has very severe functional impairment in life activities (eg, taking care of household responsibilities and day-to-day work and/or school obligations) and/or social relationships (eg, creating and maintaining relationships, interacting appropriately with others).

AND

To learn the basic interpersonal skills and/or skills of independent living necessary to support sustained recovery, the patient requires therapist-led rehabilitative services with a high-intensity therapeutic milieu.

AND

The patient is assessed as unable to safely and effectively learn these skills in a less intensive treatment setting.

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Ability to Function Effectively in Current Environment* criteria for treatment at Level 2.5 but lacks a safe and sufficiently supportive after-hours environment or requires an after-hours therapeutic milieu to effectively address functional impairment.

AND

The patient is unable to effectively participate in the rules-based milieu of a recovery residence (eg, insufficient interpersonal skills, inability to use community support without clinical guidance), **or** a recovery residence milieu is unlikely to provide sufficient support.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Ability to Function Effectively in Current Environment* criteria for treatment at Level 2.5 but is assessed as unlikely to reliably attend outpatient services.

**Minimum  
Level 3.1 =  
Risk Rating C**

1. The patient has moderately severe functional impairment in life activities (eg, taking care of household responsibilities and day-to-day work and/or school obligations) and/or social relationships (eg, creating and maintaining relationships, interacting appropriately with others).

AND

To further develop the basic interpersonal skills and/or skills of independent living necessary to support sustained recovery, the patient requires 24-hour structure and support with a therapeutic milieu and opportunities to practice learned skills in the community on a limited basis.

*continued*

## Dimension 5: Recovery Environment Interactions

## ABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

**Minimum  
Level 3.1 =  
Risk Rating C**  
*continued*

**OR**

2. The patient otherwise meets *Ability to Function Effectively in Current Environment* criteria for treatment at 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.

## AND

The patient is unable to effectively participate in the rules-based milieu of a recovery residence, **or** a recovery residence milieu is unlikely to provide sufficient support.

**OR**

3. The patient otherwise meets *Ability to Function Effectively in Current Environment* criteria for treatment at Level 2.1 but is assessed as unlikely to reliably attend outpatient services.

**Minimum  
Level 2.5 =  
Risk Rating B**

1. The patient has severe functional impairment in life activities (eg, taking care of household responsibilities and day-to-day work and/or school obligations) and/or social relationships (eg, creating and maintaining relationships, interacting appropriately with others).

## AND

To develop the basic interpersonal skills and/or skills of independent living necessary to support sustained recovery, the patient requires daily or near-daily high-intensity clinical services with a therapeutic milieu.

**Minimum  
Level 2.1 =  
Risk Rating A**

1. The patient has moderate functional impairment in life activities (eg, taking care of household responsibilities and day-to-day work and/or school obligations) and/or social relationships (eg, creating and maintaining relationships, interacting appropriately with others).

## AND

To address these impairments and achieve recovery goals, the patient requires clinical services several times per week and/or a low-intensity therapeutic milieu.

**Any Level  
of Care =  
Risk Rating  
ANY**

1. The patient's functioning in social, occupational, or school settings is not optimal, but they have sufficient interpersonal skills and are able to function adequately in their current recovery environments (eg, home, social, work, school) to participate effectively in any level of care. Additional clinical services and case management can be provided as part of standard (ie, co-occurring capable) addiction treatment at any level of care.

**Dimension 5: Recovery Environment Interactions**

**ABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT**

<p><b>No Specific Needs =</b> Risk Rating 0</p>	<p>1. The patient has no specific treatment needs related to their ability to function effectively in their current environments (eg, home, social, work, school).</p>
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**Dimension 5: Recovery Environment Interactions**

**SAFETY IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT**

<p><b>Minimum Recovery Residence =</b> Risk Rating A</p>	<p>1. The patient's current environment threatens their safety or well-being. AND The patient requires, at minimum, safe housing with appropriate support to safely participate in outpatient treatment.</p>
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<p><b>No Specific Needs =</b> Risk Rating 0</p>	<p>1. The patient's current environment is safe.</p>
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## Dimension 5: Recovery Environment Interactions

## SUPPORT IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

**Minimum  
Level 3.1 =  
Risk Rating B**

1. The patient otherwise meets criteria for outpatient treatment, but, due to interactions in Dimensions 1, 2, 3, or 4, 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.

**Minimum  
Recovery  
Residence =  
Risk Rating A**

1. The patient's current living and social environments do *not* provide sufficient support to help them cope with cravings to use or other recovery threats.  
  
AND  
  
The patient requires a safe, structured residential setting with a rules-based milieu to support participation in outpatient addiction treatment and is assessed as able to safely and effectively participate in the rules-based milieu of a recovery residence.

**Any Level  
of Care =  
Risk Rating  
ANY**

1. One or more of the patient's current environments (eg, home, social, work, school) are not optimally supportive of recovery, but the patient is able to participate in outpatient treatment without residential or recovery residence support.

**No Specific  
Needs =  
Risk Rating 0**

1. The patient's current environments (eg, home, social, work, school) are generally supportive of recovery.\*

\* This does *not* include considerations for safety; use *Safety in Current Environment* criteria to rate safety in the patient's current environments.

