NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
DAVE RICHARD • Deputy Secretary for NC Medicaid
KODY H. KINSLEY • Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J390

Date: March 3, 2021

To: Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid
Renee Rader, Assistant Director of Services and Supports, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Requirements for the Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA) and Diagnostic Assessment (DA): Training Clarification

This bulletin provides updated information regarding the DHHS-sponsored ASAM training available to help LME-MCOs and providers meet the new ASAM level of care determination requirement of proposed amendments to Clinical Coverage Policy (CCP) 8C, Section 7.3.2 (CCA Format) and CCP 8A, Attachment D, Diagnostic Assessment (Elements of the Diagnostic Assessment). These proposed amendments add a determination of ASAM level of care requirement to assessments of individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) diagnosis.

Upon implementation of these CCP amendments**,** all direct enrolled licensed professionals providing CCAs and DAs must have the knowledge, skills and ability to make an ASAM level of care determination for individuals with a SUD diagnosis.

NC DHHS is aware that there are licensed professionals who will need ASAM Criteria training to meet this requirement. As a result, NC Medicaid, in coordination with the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities & Substance Abuse Services, developed and implemented a DHHS-sponsored plan to support access to reduced cost ASAM Criteria training.

The DHHS sponsored virtual ASAM training will continue to be offered through June 30, 2021.

In order to facilitate use of the training, as of March 2021, the registration fees will be reduced as follows:

- *Two-Day Online Skill Building Training*: Reduced from $90 to $75; includes 13 contact hours and a free ASAM Criteria manual will be provided upon request.

- *ASAM eLearning Training Modules*: Reduced from $75 to $50; includes 12 continuing education credit hours and a free ASAM Criteria manual will be provided upon request.

- *Organizations can take advantage of Buy 3, Get 1 Free:* For every three registrations (2-day online) or eLearning licenses purchased, get the fourth for free.

Registration details and information are available at http://bhs.unc.edu/asam/dashboard

The DHHS-sponsored training is an application focused and skill building training that provides participants with the necessary tools to utilize the ASAM criteria in making an ASAM determination of level of care. DHHS encourages LME/MCOs and providers to take its sponsored training plan, which furnishes a level of instruction that exceeds basic introductory training to familiarize staff with the basic conceptual framework for the ASAM criteria.

Please note that any agency considering providing its own ASAM training should be aware of the copyright protections and framework established by ASAM, which are available at https://www.asam.org/copyright-and-permissions.

If you have questions, please contact Howard Anthony at Howard.Anthony@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-741-3129.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins.

cc: Kody Kinsley, Behavioral Health & I/DD
Victor Armstrong, DMH/DD/SAS
Dave Richard, NC Medicaid
Jay Ludlam, NC Medicaid
Karen Burkes, DSOHF
NC Medicaid Leadership Team
DMH/DD/SAS Leadership Team