



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

MEGAN McCLAIRE, M.S.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

DEBORAH ALLEN, Sc.D.
Deputy Director, Health Promotion Bureau

GARY TSAI, M.D.
Division Director
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
1000 South Fremont Avenue, Building A-9 East, 3rd Floor, Box 34
Alhambra, California 91803
TEL (626) 299-4101 • FAX (626) 458-7637

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis
First District

Holly J. Mitchell
Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

SAPC INFORMATION NOTICE 22-17

October 20, 2022

TO: Los Angeles County Substance Use Disorder
All SAPC Treatment Providers

FROM: Gary Tsai, M.D., Division Director *GT*
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS: UPDATES ON REQUIRED ASAM SCREENER AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

In alignment with guidance provided by the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Behavioral Health Information Notice [22-003](#), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) is implementing the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 0.5 Early Intervention Services as a new level of care for youth (12-17) and young adults (18-20). ASAM 0.5 Early Intervention Services are appropriate for youth and young adults who do not meet medical necessity for a substance use disorder (SUD), but who would benefit from services in accordance with the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit to correct or ameliorate a substance use condition. This includes services that sustain, support, improve, or make more tolerable existing substance misuse or a SUD condition.

Early Intervention Services include all Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) reimbursable services in outpatient settings and must be available on an as-needed basis to EPSDT populations (youth and young adults aged 12 through 20 years old) based on individual clinical need.

MEDICAL NECESSITY FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Effective on the release date of this Information Notice, the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults* (**Attachment I**) replaces the youth S2BI-based screener in all settings where it was previously used. All contracted youth and adult treatment providers, as well the Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) that serve EPSDT populations, must use this screener to conduct the initial screening for SUD services.

To establish medical necessity for Early Intervention Services, EPSDT populations must be screened and determined to be at-risk of developing a SUD using the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults*. A full ASAM assessment and/or SUD diagnosis is not required to access Early Intervention Services. However, a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved International Classification of Diseases 10th Edition (ICD-10) diagnosis code is required when a service request form for Early Intervention Services is submitted.

If youth or young adults eligible for EPSDT services require a higher level of care beyond Early Intervention Services, providers must refer them to the appropriate treatment level of care. If, after completing the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults*, the provider is uncertain as to which level of care is appropriate for young adult patients over the age of 18, the provider can administer the ASAM CO-Triage to assist with making this referral. However, the ASAM CO-Triage is not required to refer young adult patients to a higher level of care following administration of the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults*. Youth and young adults receiving outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential and/or Opioid Treatment Program services within the SAPC network should continue to have a full ASAM assessment completed within the timeframes specified in the SAPC Provider Manual.

AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

Authorization requests for Early Intervention Services (via the ASAM 0.5 Authorization Groupings) must be submitted through Sage using the Service Request Form with the appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis code. Providers must also upload an electronic copy of the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults* within the timeframe outlined in the most current version of the Provider Manual.

Providers must continue to ensure and verify clients meet other specialty SUD treatment services requirements including residency (Los Angeles County), Medi-Cal enrollment/eligibility and medical necessity by submitting the 270 Eligibility Form, authorization, and completion of and the California Outcome Measurement System (CalOMS)/Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS) form for each client admitted to the ASAM 0.5 Early Intervention Services level of care.

TRAINING ON ASAM SCREENER FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Technical assistance and trainings on the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults* will be available during Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023; however, providers must implement the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults* effective immediately. Information on trainings will be made available on the [SAPC Training and Events Calendar](#). All providers serving EPSDT populations must complete the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults* training by June 30, 2023. *Guidance on Completing the ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults (Attachment II)* is also available to assist providers on completing and administering the screener.

TRAINING ON EARLY INTERVENTION CURRICULUM

SAPC, in collaboration with Azusa Pacific University (APU), developed the *Healthy Youth Early Intervention Curriculum*, an evidence-based psychoeducational program designed to provide developmentally appropriate Early Intervention Services to help youth and young adults struggling with substance use behaviors improve their overall physical, mental, and social health and wellbeing.

Providers must have at least one staff member at each DMC-certified location where Early Intervention Services are conducted complete the *Healthy Youth Early Intervention Curriculum* training. Youth SUD providers were required to complete the trainings by June 30, 2022. SUD providers who serve young adults (ages 18-20) must complete the one day, six-hour, *Healthy Youth Early Intervention Curriculum* training delivered by APU by June 30, 2023 and required to sign the attestation form (**Attachment III**) acknowledging that relevant staff are trained on the curriculum.

Trainings on the *Healthy Youth Early Intervention Curriculum* will be made available on the SAPC's training calendar, as they are scheduled: [Training Link](#).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Effective July 1, 2022, ASAM 0.5 replaced the ASAM 1.0 At-Risk (AR) level of care. All outstanding ASAM 1.0 AR claims must be submitted to SAPC by October 31, 2022.

In addition, ASAM 0.5 replaced Adult At-Risk services provided by the CENS for individuals aged 18 through 20 years. Individuals in this age group who require ASAM 0.5 services need to be referred to an outpatient level of care.

A contract change notice for the addition of ASAM 0.5 Early Intervention Services level of care will be sent out for each provider that is contracted for ASAM 1.0 who serves beneficiaries ages 12 through 17 and/or 18 through 20.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For additional information on the Early Intervention Services benefit, please refer to the most current version of the Provider Manual. If you have questions regarding the *ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults*, including questions on training requirements associated with the Early Intervention Services benefit, please contact:

- **Youth (Ages 12-17):** Elizabeth Norris-Walczak, PhD, Section Manager, Youth and Family Services, at (626) 299-3570 or email at enorris@ph.lacounty.gov;
- **Young Adults (Ages 18-20):** Sandy Song, Section Manager, Adult Services, at (626) 293-2681 or email at sasong@ph.lacounty.gov.

GT:dt