

DDAP ASAM Technical Assistance Series
Questions and Answers
March 6, 2023

Question: How are recovery houses dealing with medical marijuana, especially with the regulations of being fully substance free?

Answer: The new administration is meeting to review how medical marijuana will be implemented into the recovery houses. As soon as additional information is received, the Recovery House Section will ensure all recovery houses receive the information and guidance.

Question: For 3.7, does it have to be 24/7 nursing care? What about 24/7 personal care?

Answer: ASAM Level 3.7 calls for the availability of 24-hour nursing care (ASAM 3rd Ed, pg. 266). Personal care is not mentioned at this level.

Question: Does the Nursing Assessment need to be done by a registered nurse in a 3.7 or can an LPN complete?

Answer: The ASAM Criteria, 2013

The ASAM Criteria, 2013 does not specify who can complete a nursing assessment; therefore, if the assessment is within the scope of practice for the LPN it could be completed by an LPN. The provider should also note The ASAM Criteria does specify on pp 266-267 that 'a registered nurse conducts an alcohol or other drug-focused nursing assessment at the time of admission.' In addition, it is noted that an appropriately credentialed and licensed nurse is responsible for monitoring the patient' progress and for medication administration.

Please refer additional questions to the DDAP's ASAM Resource Account at: ra-daasam@pa.gov