

## ASAM Alignment Memorandum

**Issue Date:** June 29, 2021

**Issued By:** Jennifer Smith, 

Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2021

**Subject:** ASAM Alignment – Provider Requests for Extension

**Purpose:** This memorandum establishes a procedure for drug and alcohol treatment providers to request from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) additional time beyond July 1, 2021 in reaching substantial alignment with service delivery conditions under *The ASAM Criteria, 2013* (ASAM Criteria).

**Audience:** Drug and alcohol treatment providers that receive funding for providing treatment services under agreements with Single County Authorities and/or Managed Care Organizations.

**Rationale:** The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted some providers that are having temporary difficulties aligning with service delivery conditions under the ASAM criteria. In particular, staff shortages that both pre-date and were intensified by the pandemic are interfering with alignment.

**Procedure:** To request an extension in substantially aligning with service delivery conditions under the ASAM criteria, drug and alcohol providers will submit a brief, 1-page letter to [RA-DAASAM@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DAASAM@pa.gov) by **July 9, 2021** that contains the following information:

- Provider Name
- Provider License Number
- Level or Levels of Care (LOC) for which a Delay is Requested (e.g. 3.5)
- A Description of the Specific Elements of ASAM Alignment for which an Extension is Requested (e.g. Credentialing Requirements)
- A Concise Plan for Coming into Alignment with the Specific Elements of ASAM Alignment

DDAP will approve satisfactory requests for an extension to December 31, 2021 in substantially aligning with service delivery conditions for ASAM criteria related to 1) training, 2) credentialing, and 3) daily clinical services in LOC 3.5 and 3.7 (i.e. 6 to 8 hours of clinical services). All other requests for extension will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. DDAP will continue its ongoing close collaboration with IOP and Partial Programs who have experienced difficulties in aligning with the ASAM Criteria due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Submissions must be copied to any Single County Authority and/or Managed Care Organization with which the provider has an agreement for service delivery.



Questions regarding this memorandum can be directed to [RA-DAASAM@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DAASAM@pa.gov).