

Provider Notice

To: **SUD Providers**
From: **PerformCare**
Date: **January 19, 2021**
Subject: **SU 21 100 Medication Assisted Treatment in SU Programs**

The OMHSAS 2021 Program Standards and Requirements (“PSR”) specify that Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations (“BH-MCOs”) must assure that all SUD providers are following ASAM guidelines and assure access to all forms of Medication Assisted Treatment (“MAT”). The PSR states that:

The Primary Contractor and its BH-MCO must ensure that the SUD providers in its network comply with program standards in the ASAM Criteria including but not limited to admission criteria, discharge criteria, interventions/types of services, hours of clinical care, and credentials of staff as set forth in the ASAM transition requirements found at <https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Professionals/Pages/ASAM-Transition.aspx>. The Primary Contractor and its BH-MCO must monitor SUD providers in order to ensure compliance with program standards in the ASAM Criteria. The monitoring process must follow guidelines that will be developed by OMHSAS.

The Primary Contractor or its BH-MCO must ensure that SUD providers in their network offer Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) either on-site or facilitate access to MAT off-site. MAT is the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders. The Primary Contractor or its BH-MCO must ensure the coordination of care between therapeutic and pharmaceutical interventions so that individuals with SUD who have a disorder for which there is an FDA-approved medication treatment have access to those treatments based upon their individual needs and preferences.

The Primary Contractor and its BH-MCO must:

- a. Ensure that network providers do not exclude individuals on MAT from being admitted into services;
- b. Ensure coordination of care after consent is obtained from the Member when a prescriber and the SUD treatment provider are not the same;
- c. Ensure network providers admit and provide services to individuals who use MAT for SUD.

Therefore, to implement this new OMHSAS requirement in partnership with SUD providers, PerformCare is issuing a provider readiness survey concurrent with this notice. This provider survey will inform PerformCare about provider readiness for ASAM alignment. PerformCare will also provide a

webinar or online meeting to provide guidance in March of 2021 to address any common barriers identified in the survey and to provide a forum to discuss provider questions about implementing the requirements to accommodate the ASAM alignment and acceptance of persons receiving FDA approved MAT outlined by OMHSAS and DDAP.

When the OMHSAS monitoring guidelines are developed and distributed to the SUD treatment community, PerformCare will utilize those guidelines and align the OMHSAS monitoring guidelines with our current credentialing policy and procedures. Failure to comply with any OMHSAS or PerformCare requirements may result in either a Quality of Care referral, and/or a referral to our credentialing committee. PerformCare's policy **QI-CR-003 Credentialing Progressive Disciplinary Actions for Providers** describes the steps that can be taken by the Credentialing Committee for instances of noncompliance. A link to that policy can be found here: [PerformCare Policy QI-CR-003](#)

PerformCare will work in collaboration with providers to make the required programmatic and operational changes to assure the successful implementation of the ASAM alignment initiative including the ability to treat Members receiving MAT at all levels of care.

Please contact your account Executive at PerformCareProviderRelations@amerihealthcaritas.com if you have questions about this notice.

cc: Lisa Hanzel, PerformCare
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PerformCare Account Executives