

MassHealth Continuum of Care for Substance Use Disorders and Addiction Treatment



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Addiction Is.....

..... a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences. People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviors that become compulsive and often continue despite harmful consequences. Prevention efforts and treatment approaches for addiction are generally as successful as those for other chronic diseases.

Addiction Is Not.....

..... a moral or characterological failing or a sign of weakness

MassHealth Continuum of Care for Substance Use and Addictive Disorders

- Aligns with the principles of The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria for the treatment of addictive, substance-related, and co-occurring conditions ©
- Includes 24-hour and non-24-hour treatment
- Includes specialty and population-specific treatment

Substance Use and Addictive Disorders

What's the Difference?

SAMHSA: Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. Often require treatment in a 24-hour program.

DSM – 5: Addictive Disorders:. Patterns of repetitive behaviors such as gambling, internet addiction, etc. that cause clinically significant impairment but not caused by substance use. Treated on an outpatient basis.

24-Hour Levels of Care

4.0: Medically Managed Inpatient Treatment

- Highest level of care
 - Hospital setting
 - History of or presence of complex withdrawal symptoms that require daily physician or mid-level care under direction of physician and 24/7 nursing care
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3.7: Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient Treatment

- Previously described as 'detox'
 - Also known as Acute Treatment Services (ATS) in Massachusetts
 - Utilization of physician-directed protocols and 24/7 availability of nursing to manage less complicated withdrawal symptoms
 - Average length of stay 6-7 days
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3.5: Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Treatment

- Also known as Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS) in Massachusetts
- Nursing available but not 24/7; treatment under direction of physician
- Symptoms of withdrawal largely resolved
- Focuses on skill-building, psychosocial services, and management of post-acute withdrawal syndrome (PAWS)
- Average length of stay 14 – 17 days



Individualized Treatment and Stabilization Services

- ITS Tier 1 serves members who are involuntarily committed by the court to treatment due to the severity and level of impairment caused by their SUD (Section 35)
- Integrates 3.7 (ATS) and 3.5 (CSS) services in a single unit or location
- Programs must meet all expectations for both service models, including licensure requirements and are contracted with BSAS to provide service



Youth Withdrawal and Stabilization Services

- A short-term 24-hour treatment program for adolescents or transition age youth who abuse or are dependent on alcohol or drugs, which may be accompanied by mental health issues. These programs provide stabilization/detoxification services for males and females 12 through 16, and transitional aged youth from 17 through 20 years of age.

3.1: Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Treatment

- Also known as Residential Rehabilitation Services (RRS) in Massachusetts
- Longer term 24-hour treatment programs
- Focus on using new skills to maintain recovery and reintegration into the community
- Specialty programs include co-occurring enhanced RRS, family RRS, youth/adolescent/transitional aged youth RRS
- Average length of stay about 90 days but can vary depending on type of program

Non-24-Hour Levels of Care:

2.1 Intensive Outpatient Service

- For SUD, known as Structured Outpatient Addictions program (SOAP) and Enhanced SOAP for special populations
- At least 9 hours and no more than 20 hours per week of treatment
- For individuals that do not require medical “detox” or 24-hour care
- Individuals can maintain responsibilities while engaged in treatment.

1.0 Outpatient Treatment

- Treatment that is less than 9 hours a week
- Treats individuals with less acute substance use and addictive disorders with BH counseling and therapy
- Often used as a step down from more intensive services
- Long-term continuing care focused on relapse prevention

Opioid Treatment Services

- Ambulatory Opioid Use Disorder Treatment using Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- OTPs provide comprehensive outpatient medical and rehabilitation services provided in conjunction with dispensing (not prescribing) an FDA Approved Medication for Opioid Use Disorder
- Outpatient clinics (BH, CHC, PCP) can prescribe buprenorphine and naltrexone

Peer Recovery Coaching & Recovery Support Navigators

- Ancillary, non-clinical peer and paraprofessional services that can be paired with any ASAM level of care to enhance connections to the Recovery Community and provide ongoing support along with care coordination.
- Services may have some overlap but are distinct in the requirements and the service provided.

Enrolling as a MassHealth SUD Provider

- SUD provider regulations can be found here: [130 CMR 418.000: Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services | Mass.gov](#) (currently being amended)
- SUD providers enroll as Provider Type 28 in fee-for-service
 - Maximus manages enrollments and can provide the applications and guidance
 - SUD team approves applications
- Current BSAS licensure is required for all services
- For managed care enrollment, outreach should be made to the individual plans once FFS enrollment is approved

Accessing SUD services for Members

- No referrals from MDs or prior authorization are required for treatment
- All MassHealth coverage types are accepted for SUD treatment except for MassHealth Limited

Resources

[Words Matter - Terms to Use and Avoid When Talking About Addiction](#)

[SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)

[NIDA.NIH.GOV | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)

[Bureau of Substance Addiction Services | Mass.gov](#)