



Magellan adopts ASAM criteria in Texas

Changes to utilization review for chemical dependency services

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has issued a notice to Magellan Healthcare* to cease using the Texas chemical dependency criteria titled *Standards for Reasonable Cost Control and Utilization Review for Chemical Dependency Treatment Centers* located in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 28, Chapter 3, Subchapter HH 3.8001-3.8030. TDI advised that medical necessity determinations, including determinations on substance use disorder cases, must be made in accordance with the following sections:

A utilization review determination shall be made in accordance with currently accepted medical or health care practices, taking into account special circumstances of the case that may require deviation from the norm stated in the screening criteria. (Texas Insurance Code § 4201.153 (b)).

Screening criteria. Each URA must utilize written screening criteria that are evidence-based, scientifically valid, outcome-focused, and that comply with the requirements in Insurance Code § 4201.153. The screening criteria must also recognize that if evidence-based medicine is not available for a particular health care service provided, the URA must utilize generally accepted standards of medical practice recognized in the medical community. (Texas Administrative Code, 28 TAC §19.07(c)).

As such, for all Texas commercial and Medicaid health plans, **Magellan will comply with TDI's notice and commence using the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria as the basis for the utilization reviews of substance use disorder cases. Magellan will begin using ASAM on Oct. 31, 2019.**

You can find information about the ASAM criteria at www.asam.org. If you have specific questions about this change, contact Magellan at the phone number on the back of the member's benefits card, or submit your question or comment by email to SEandCentralNetwork@MagellanHealth.com.

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