

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

SPA 25-Z: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services – New Rates for Adolescent Residential ASAM Levels of Care and Rate Update for Adult Residential ASAM Levels of Care 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.5PPW

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after July 1, 2025, SPA 25-Z amends Attachments 3.1-A, 3.1-B, and 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan, establishing coverage and reimbursement for SUD Adolescent ASAM levels of care (3.1 and 3.7), increasing the treatment rate for 3.5 adolescent level of care, and collapsing the treatment bed rate corridor for adult residential levels of care 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.5PPW under the rehabilitative services benefit category pursuant to section 1905(a)(13)(C) of the Social Security Act and as defined in federal regulation at 42 C.F.R. § 440.130(d), provided in outpatient and residential levels of care, as detailed below.

The purpose of this SPA is to improve and expand SUD services covered by Medicaid in alignment with the Demonstration, including to help accomplish the milestones, goals, and objectives set forth in the Demonstration and related materials. More broadly, this SPA, together with the Demonstration and other state initiatives, is part of the state’s efforts to address the opioid epidemic and to help individuals with opioid use disorder and other SUDs.

Proposed SUD ASAM Adult Residential Bed Changes for 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.5PPW Level of Care (Single Unit)

Level of Care	0-24 Beds	25+ Beds
3.1	\$342.21	\$194.73
3.3	\$381.31	\$233.87
3.5	\$456.21	\$267.75
3.5 PPW	\$456.21	\$456.21

Proposed SUD ASAM Adult Residential Flex Bed Changes for 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.5PPW Level of Care (Single Unit)

Level of Care	0-24 Beds	25+ Beds
3.1	\$342.21	\$194.73
3.3	\$381.31	\$233.87
3.5	\$456.21	\$267.75
3.5 PPW	\$456.21	\$456.21

Proposed SUD ASAM Adolescent Residential Fee Changes for 3.1, 3.5, 3.7 Level of Care (Single Unit)

Level of Care	Flat Rate (no bed corridor)
3.1	\$642.01
3.5	\$755.30
3.7	\$907.40

Fiscal Impact

DSS estimates that this SPA will increase annual aggregate Medicaid expenditures by approximately \$8,295,065 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 and \$13,272,104 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2027

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

The proposed SPA is posted on the DSS website at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-State-Plan-Amendments>. The proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS field office, at the Town of Vernon Social Services Department, or upon request from DSS (see below).

To request a copy of the SPA from DSS or to send comments about the SPA, please email: Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105. Please reference “SPA: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services – New Rates for Adolescent Residential ASAM Levels of Care and Rate Update for Adult Residential ASAM Level of Care 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.5PPW.”

Anyone may send DSS written comments about this SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than May 28, 2025.

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criteria. The individualized treatment plan must be person-centered and developed in collaboration with the individual and any other persons chosen by the individual to participate in the development of the treatment plan, including family members, when appropriate and when for the direct benefit of the beneficiary.

- b. Qualified Practitioners: Independent licensed practitioners (defined below); and associate licensed practitioners (defined below), master's-level unlicensed counselors (defined below), or graduate-level interns (defined below), working under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner. The independent licensed practitioner must also sign each assessment and treatment plan performed by the associate licensed practitioner, master's-level unlicensed counselor, or graduate-level intern.

2. Therapy

- a. Component Description: Individual, group, couples, and family therapy, or any combination thereof, as medically necessary based on the beneficiary's treatment plan, to address an individual's major lifestyle, attitudinal, and behavioral problems. This component focuses on symptom reduction associated with the individual's diagnosis(es), stabilization and restoration to the person's best possible functional level, including use of appropriate evidence-informed practices. Collateral contact is permitted as needed to address the therapeutic goals of the Medicaid beneficiary receiving treatment. Any family therapy must be for the direct benefit of the beneficiary.
- b. Qualified Practitioners: Independent licensed practitioners; and associate licensed practitioners, master's-level unlicensed counselors, or graduate-level interns, ~~master's-level unlicensed counselors~~ working under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner.

3. Health Services and Medication Management

- c. Component Description: This component includes any combination of the following as medically necessary for each person: health assessments, health monitoring, health education requiring a medical license (in one of the categories of qualified practitioners for this service) for an individual or group session with members to learn specific ways of coping and progressing in their recovery.

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- b. Qualified Practitioners: Independent licensed practitioners; associate licensed practitioners; certified alcohol and drug counselors; registered nurses; licensed practical nurses; master's-level unlicensed counselors; unlicensed counselors; peer support specialists; technicians; graduate-level interns; and associate/bachelor-level interns. All individuals other than independent licensed practitioners must work under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or other applicable qualified supervisor as set forth below in the definition for each category of practitioner.

6. Skill Building and Psycho-Education

- a. Component Description: This component assists the individual to restore skills to minimize behavioral symptoms and prevent progression associated with SUD as outlined in the individualized treatment plan. The skill building is directed to decrease problem behavior and increase appropriate pro-social behavior and promote integration with community resources. Psycho-education and wellness education provide instruction and training to increase an individual's knowledge and understanding of, as applicable, any combination of health, development, diagnosis(es), prognosis(es), and treatment, in order to enhance health, increase engagement and collaboration with treatment, and favorably affect clinical outcomes.
- b. Qualified Practitioners: Independent licensed practitioners; associate licensed practitioners; certified alcohol and drug counselors, registered nurses; licensed practical nurses; peer support specialists; master's-level unlicensed counselors; unlicensed counselors; technicians; graduate-level interns; and associate/bachelor-level interns. All individuals other than independent licensed practitioners must work under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or other applicable qualified supervisor as set forth below in the definition for each category of practitioner.

C. Levels of Care

The amount, frequency, and duration of covered SUD services are provided in accordance with the member's individualized treatment plan and ASAM criteria. The applicable levels of care for the provision of SUD services and the service components covered within each setting are as follows, each of which aligns with the ASAM levels of care. Except as otherwise specifically

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11. **Level 3.7 - Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient Services for Adults / Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Services for Adolescents** provide 24-hour per day nursing care with physician availability for significant problems as well as counselor availability. The goal of this high-intensity level of care is to provide sufficient stability to prevent or minimize relapse, continued use and continued problem potential. Co-occurring enhanced treatment at this level of care offers planned clinical activities designed to promote stabilization of the individual's behavioral health needs and psychiatric symptoms. The following service components are covered in this level of care (both with and without co-occurring enhanced services): all service components described above.

12. **Level 3.7-WM - Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Services, Withdrawal Management** provide withdrawal management in a permanent facility with inpatient beds under the direction of a licensed physician. The full resources of an acute care general hospital or a medically managed intensive inpatient treatment non-hospital are not necessary for individuals receiving these services. The level of care is for individuals in severe withdrawal needing 24-hour per day nursing care and physician visits and who are unlikely to complete withdrawal management without medical monitoring. Facilities must provide physician supervision, as well as 24 hour per day, 7 days per week monitoring from licensed nurses to members who are withdrawing or are intoxicated from alcohol or other drugs but are not experiencing medical or neurological symptoms that would require hospitalization. Medications are prescribed and administered if needed during withdrawal management. The goal of this level of care is to stabilize and prepare individuals for continued treatment at lower levels of care. The following service components are covered in this level of care: all service components described above.

D. Provider Qualifications

1. Facility Provider Qualifications

SUD services detailed in this section must be provided by facilities that meet the following qualifications, as applicable to each provider:

Licensure

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applicable requirements for the certification. In the context of the services provided under this section, the CADC works under the supervision of an Independent Licensed Practitioner.

- f. Certified Peer Recovery Specialist: These specialists are individuals with self-identified lived experience connected to SUD who are certified by DMHAS, DCF or a certifying entity approved by DMHAS or DCF and who, in addition to all qualifications required by the certification, are at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED. Certified Peer Recovery Specialists must meet the certification's continuing education requirements and must be recertified within the certification's timeframes. The certified peer recovery specialist works under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner, a certified peer recovery specialist supervisor, or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services.
- g. Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Supervisor: Must meet all of the criteria for a certified peer recovery specialist and have at least two years full-time equivalent experience providing peer recovery specialist services occurring after having been certified as a peer recovery specialist. The certified peer recovery specialist supervisor works under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services.
- h. Technician: Must meet at least all of the following criteria: (i) at least 18 years of age, (ii) have one of the following: at least a bachelor's degree in a human services or other field related to SUD services, at least an associate's degree in a human services or other field related to SUD services plus one year of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services, or a high school diploma or equivalent GED, plus two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services, (iii) work under the direct supervision of a technician supervisor, peer recovery specialist supervisor, independent licensed practitioner or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services, and (iv) receive supervision at least 30 minutes for every 40 hours worked.
- i. Technician Supervisor: Must meet all of the criteria for a technician and have two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services after having met the qualifications to be a technician.
- ~~i,j.~~ Master's-Level Unlicensed Counselor: Must (i) have earned a master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, marriage and family, counseling, psychology or a related field; and (ii) ~~Master's-level unlicensed counselors must work under the direct supervision of an independent licensed practitioner.~~
- ~~j,k.~~ Unlicensed Counselor: Must (i) have at least a ~~master's degree in a human services or related field or~~ a bachelor's degree in a human services or related field plus two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services and (ii) work under the

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~~experience providing SUD services and (ii) work under the~~ direct supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services.

~~k.l.~~ Graduate-Level Intern: Must be actively enrolled in an accredited graduate degree program at an accredited college or university that: (1) once completed, would satisfy the graduate education requirements for one or more categories of independent licensed practitioner and (2) requires students to participate in intern placements for clinical training in the provision of behavioral health services. The graduate-level intern must receive weekly clinical supervision from an independent licensed practitioner who is the intern's site-supervisor and also supervision from the intern's graduate degree program. This supervision must be conducted in accordance with the standards outlined by the sponsoring graduate degree program and any relevant graduate education accreditation body or bodies applicable to the degree program. All training and supervision must be in accordance with ASAM standards.

~~l.m.~~ Associate/Bachelor-Level Intern: Must be actively enrolled in an accredited associate or bachelor's degree program at an accredited college or university that (1) is in a field of study related to human services, mental health and/or substance use disorders and (2) requires student placements for training in the provision of behavioral health services. The associate/bachelor level intern must receive weekly supervision from an independent licensed practitioner or associate licensed practitioner who is the intern's site supervisor and also supervision from the intern's undergraduate degree program. This supervision must be conducted in accordance with the standards outlined by the sponsoring educational program and any relevant education accreditation body or bodies applicable to the degree program. All training and supervision must be in accordance with ASAM standards.

~~m.n.~~ Licensed Practical Nurse: Licensed under state law and working under the person's scope of practice in accordance with state law.

~~n.o.~~ Registered Nurse: Licensed under state law and working under the person's scope of practice in accordance with state law.

E. Excluded Services

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achievable level of independent functioning based on the ASAM placement criteria. The individualized treatment plan must be person-centered and developed in collaboration with the individual and any other persons chosen by the individual to participate in the development of the treatment plan, including family members, when appropriate and when for the direct benefit of the beneficiary.

b. Qualified Practitioners: Independent licensed practitioners (defined below); and associate licensed practitioners (defined below), master's-level unlicensed counselors (defined below), or graduate-level interns (defined below), working under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner. The independent licensed practitioner must also sign each assessment and treatment plan performed by the associate licensed practitioner, master's-level unlicensed counselor, or graduate-level intern.

2. Therapy

- a. **Component Description:** Individual, group, couples, and family therapy, or any combination thereof, as medically necessary based on the beneficiary's treatment plan, to address an individual's major lifestyle, attitudinal, and behavioral problems. This component focuses on symptom reduction associated with the individual's diagnosis(es), stabilization and restoration to the person's best possible functional level, including use of appropriate evidence-informed practices. Collateral contact is permitted as needed to address the therapeutic goals of the Medicaid beneficiary receiving treatment. Any family therapy must be for the direct benefit of the beneficiary.
- b. **Qualified Practitioners:** Independent licensed practitioners; and associate licensed practitioners, master's-level unlicensed counselors, or graduate-level interns, working under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner.

3. Health Services and Medication Management

- a. **Component Description:** This component includes any combination of the following as medically necessary for each person: health assessments, health monitoring, health education requiring a medical license (in one of the categories of qualified practitioners for this service) for an individual or group session with

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- b. Qualified Practitioners: Independent licensed practitioners; associate licensed practitioners; certified alcohol and drug counselors; registered nurses; licensed practical nurses; master's-level unlicensed counselors; unlicensed counselors; peer support specialists; technicians; graduate-level interns; and associate/bachelor-level interns. All individuals other than independent licensed practitioners must work under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or other applicable qualified supervisor as set forth below in the definition for each category of practitioner.

6. **Skill Building and Psycho-Education**

- a. Component Description: This component assists the individual to restore skills to minimize behavioral symptoms and prevent progression associated with SUD as outlined in the individualized treatment plan. The skill building is directed to decrease problem behavior and increase appropriate pro-social behavior and promote integration with community resources. Psycho-education and wellness education provide instruction and training to increase an individual's knowledge and understanding of, as applicable, any combination of health, development, diagnosis(es), prognosis(es), and treatment, in order to enhance health, increase engagement and collaboration with treatment, and favorably affect clinical outcomes.
- b. Qualified Practitioners: Independent licensed practitioners; associate licensed practitioners; certified alcohol and drug counselors, registered nurses; licensed practical nurses; peer support specialists; master's-level unlicensed counselors; unlicensed counselors; technicians; graduate-level interns; and associate/bachelor-level interns. All individuals other than independent licensed practitioners must work under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or other applicable qualified supervisor as set forth below in the definition for each category of practitioner.

C. Levels of Care

The amount, frequency, and duration of covered SUD services are provided in accordance with the member's individualized treatment plan and ASAM criteria. The applicable levels of care for the provision of SUD services and the service components covered within each setting are as follows, each of which aligns with the ASAM levels of care. Except as otherwise specifically

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8. **Level 3.2-WM - Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management Services** are services provided to individuals in moderate withdrawal, who need 24-hour per day support to complete withdrawal management and increase likelihood of continuing treatment or recovery but who do not require the full medical and nursing resources of a medically monitored withdrawal management service. The following service components are covered in this level of care: all service components described above.

9. **Level 3.3 - Clinically Managed Population-Specific High-Intensity Residential Services** provide a 24-hour per day structure with trained counselors to stabilize multidimensional imminent danger; less intense programming and group treatment for individuals with cognitive or other impairments unable to use full therapeutic community; and preparation for outpatient treatment. The high-intensity services are designed to accommodate individuals with cognitive or other impairments, including co-occurring psychiatric disorders. Services provided at this level of care include assessment and treatment plan development, and a combination of service components that may address both SUD and co-occurring mental health needs provided in a manner designed to meet the functional limitations of the individual. The following service components are covered in this level of care: all service components described above.

10. **Level 3.5 - Clinically Managed Medium-Intensity Residential Services for Adolescents / Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services for Adults** provide 24-hour care per day with trained counselors to stabilize multi-dimensional imminent danger. Specialized facilities provide this level of care to individuals with dependent children and to pregnant women. Assessment and treatment plan development are components of care that are required in addition to the required weekly treatment hours. The goal of this level of care is to prepare individuals for continued treatment at lower levels of care and reintegration back into the community. The following service components are covered in this level of care: all service components described above.

11. **Level 3.7 - Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient Services Adults / Medically Managed High Intensity Residential Services for Adolescents** provide 24-hour per day nursing care with physician availability for significant problems as well as counselor availability. The goal of this high-intensity level of care is to provide sufficient stability to prevent or minimize relapse, continued use and continued problem potential. Co-occurring enhanced treatment at this level of care offers planned clinical activities designed to promote stabilization of the individual's behavioral health needs and

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certification, are at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED. Certified Peer Recovery Specialists must meet the certification's continuing education requirements and must be recertified within the timeframes defined by the certification's requirements. The certified peer recovery specialist works under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner, a certified peer recovery specialist supervisor, or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services.

- g. Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Supervisor: Must meet all of the criteria for a certified peer recovery specialist and have at least two years full-time equivalent experience providing peer recovery specialist services occurring after having been certified as a peer recovery specialist. The certified peer recovery specialist supervisor works under the supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services.
- h. Technician: Must meet at least all of the following criteria: (i) at least 18 years of age, (ii) have one of the following: at least a bachelor's degree in a human services or other field related to SUD services, at least an associate's degree in a human services or other field related to SUD services plus one year of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services, or a high school diploma or equivalent GED, plus two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services, (iii) work under the direct supervision of a technician supervisor, peer recovery specialist supervisor, independent licensed practitioner or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services, and (iv) receive supervision at least 30 minutes for every 40 hours worked.
- i. Technician Supervisor: Must meet all of the criteria for a technician and have two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services after having met the qualifications to be a technician.
- j. Master's-Level Unlicensed Counselor: Must (i) have earned a master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, marriage and family, counseling, psychology or a related field and (ii) ~~Master's level unlicensed counselors must~~ work under the direct supervision of an independent licensed practitioner.
- i.k. Unlicensed Counselor: Must (i) have at least a ~~master's degree in a human services or related field or a~~ bachelor's degree in a human services or related field plus two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services and (ii) work under the direct supervision of an independent licensed practitioner or an associate licensed practitioner with at least two years of full-time equivalent experience providing SUD services.

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j-l. Graduate-Level Intern: Must be actively enrolled in an accredited graduate degree program at an accredited college or university that: (1) once completed, would satisfy the graduate education requirements for one or more categories of independent licensed practitioner and (2) requires students to participate in intern placements for clinical training in the provision of behavioral health services. The graduate-level intern must receive weekly clinical supervision from an independent licensed practitioner who is the intern's site-supervisor and also supervision from the intern's graduate degree program. This supervision must be conducted in accordance with the standards outlined by the sponsoring graduate degree program and any relevant graduate education accreditation body or bodies applicable to the degree program. All training and supervision must be in accordance with ASAM standards.

k-m. Associate/Bachelor-Level Intern: Must be actively enrolled in an accredited associate or bachelor's degree program at an accredited college or university that (1) is in a field of study related to human services, mental health and/or substance use disorders and (2) requires student placements for training in the provision of behavioral health services. The associate/bachelor level intern must receive weekly supervision from an independent licensed practitioner or associate licensed practitioner who is the intern's site supervisor and also supervision from the intern's undergraduate degree program. This supervision must be conducted in accordance with the standards outlined by the sponsoring educational program and any relevant education accreditation body or bodies applicable to the degree program. All training and supervision must be in accordance with ASAM standards.

l-n. Licensed Practical Nurse: Licensed under state law and working under the person's scope of practice in accordance with state law.

m-o. Registered Nurse: Licensed under state law and working under the person's scope of practice in accordance with state law.

E. Excluded Services

The following services are excluded from coverage:

1. Room and board, which is not a covered or reimbursable service and is excluded from the rates of any residential service under this section;

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STATE: CONNECTICUT

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services - Rehabilitative Services 42 CFR 440.130(d)

Except as otherwise noted in the Medicaid State Plan, the state-developed fee schedule is the same for both governmental and private providers. The agency's fee schedule rates for substance use disorder services in the rehabilitative services benefit category were set as of ~~June~~ July 1, 2025, ~~1, 2022~~ and are effective for services provided on or after that date. All rates are published on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program website: <https://www.ctdssmap.com>. From this web page, go to "Provider" then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download," then select the applicable fee schedule (for residential levels of care, select the fee schedule for free-standing residential treatment facilities; for ambulatory levels of care, select the fee schedule for behavioral health clinics and use the codes applicable to SUD services).

Room and board costs are not included in the fee for SUD services paid under section 13 of Attachment 4.19-B and are not reimbursable.

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