

## Title: Applying ASAM Criteria to Determine Level of Care

### Purpose

This assignment helps students practice applying the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria by matching patient symptoms to the appropriate Level of Care (LOC).

### Background

The ASAM Criteria include six assessment dimensions:

1. Acute Intoxication/Withdrawal Potential
2. Biomedical Conditions
3. Emotional/Behavioral/Cognitive Conditions
4. Readiness to Change
5. Relapse/Continued Use Potential
6. Recovery Environment

### Assignment Instructions

Students should read each patient scenario, identify ASAM dimensions, assign risk levels, select a Level of Care, and justify choices.

#### Case 1: Maria

Maria is a 28-year-old who drinks heavily on weekends and occasionally during the week. She reports no withdrawal symptoms and stable physical health, but her home environment encourages alcohol use. She feels ambivalent about change.

#### Case 2: David

David is a 34-year-old daily heroin user with morning withdrawal symptoms and untreated hypertension. He wants help but fears withdrawal. His partner is supportive.

#### Case 3: James

James is a 22-year-old methamphetamine user experiencing paranoia, insomnia, and agitation. He lacks insight into his condition and appears disorganized.

#### Case 4: Elena

Elena is a 59-year-old with decades of heavy alcohol use, withdrawal symptoms, liver disease, anemia, and multiple hospitalizations. Her home environment includes heavy drinking by her spouse.

### Reflection

Students should reflect on which ASAM dimensions were easiest or hardest to assess and how matching symptoms to levels of care improves outcomes.

Category	Points	Description
<b>Accuracy of Dimension Identification</b>	25	Correctly identifies relevant ASAM dimensions in each case.
<b>Appropriateness of Level of Care Selection</b>	25	Level of care matches the scenario's risk profile.
<b>Quality of Justification</b>	30	Clear, evidence-informed reasoning connecting symptoms → dimensions → LOC.
<b>Reflection Quality</b>	20	Thoughtful insights on learning, challenges, and clinical application.

The ASAM Levels of Care include, in increasing intensity:

- **Level 0.5:** Early Intervention
- **Level 1.0:** Outpatient Services
- **Level 2.1:** Intensive Outpatient Services
- **Level 2.5:** Partial Hospitalization
- **Level 3.1 – 3.7:** Residential/Inpatient Services (varying structure and medical monitoring)
- **Level 4.0:** Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Services