
Clinical Practice Guideline

Screening and Management of Substance Use Disorders in Adults

Revised / Effective: July 2024
Next Review: June 2026

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

The health plan supports the recommendations of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense (VA/DoD) clinical practice guideline for screening and management of substance use disorders (SUD) in adults.

REFERENCE

Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Substance Use Disorders (SUD), 2021. Available at: <http://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/MH/sud/>. Accessed June 18, 2024.

OTHER RESOURCES

- The ASAM Criteria: Treatment Criteria for Addictive, Substance-Related, and Co-Occurring Conditions. 4th ed. Available at: <https://www.asam.org/asam-criteria> Accessed on June 18, 2024.
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Unhealthy Alcohol Use in Adolescents and Adults: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions.. Available at: <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/unhealthy-alcohol-use-in-adolescents-and-adults-screening-and-behavioral-counseling-interventions> Accessed on June 18, 2024.
- Substance use disorder educational materials are included on the health plan's website.

POSITION STATEMENT

The VA/DoD guideline is supported by the health plan because they are based on scientific evidence, and where evidence is lacking, on expert panel consensus judgment. The guidelines reflect the current standard of care.

- The panel members are recognized experts in substance use disorders, practicing in a variety of professional settings.
- The recommendations are based on a well-defined, comprehensive scientific literature search.
- The methods used to critically appraise the evidence are transparent.
- The guideline clearly states the strength of the evidence for which recommendations are based.
- Sources of funding for guideline development are reported.
- Financial disclosures/potential conflicts of interest for individual panel members are reported.

GUIDELINE ADOPTION AND RECOMMENDED USE

This guideline has been adopted based on nationally and locally recognized sources. This guideline is based on the most recent medical evidence at the time of the report or on a consensus of panel experts. The health plan adopts guidelines to help practitioners and members make decisions about appropriate health care for specific medical conditions. Guidelines are not a substitute for professional medical advice.

BENEFIT DETERMINATION

Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable contract coverage. To the extent that there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language takes precedence.

Date of Origin: August 2014