

# Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

## Health Plan Advisory No. 21-03

DATE: April 16, 2021  
TO: Nebraska Heritage Health Plans  
FROM: Kevin Bagley, Director *KB*  
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care  
BY: Todd Baustert, Administrator II  
Demonstration Waivers  
RE: Provider Capacity Assessment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Services

This health plan advisory is being issued to notify the Heritage Health plans of upcoming changes to the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Services Provider Capacity Assessment.

In support of the State's approved Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Implementation Plan, and consistent with the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) for Nebraska's approved 1115(a) waiver program, the Department of Health and Human Services will implement new Managed Care Organization (MCO) reporting requirements focused on SUD provider capacity for critical ASAM levels of care, including the number of participating providers accepting new patients by level of care and those that offer Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) effective January 1, 2020.

### List of Changes:

- A. Nebraska MCOs' contractual access standards for behavioral health currently only require reporting on the broad categories of Inpatient/Residential Services and Outpatient services. For all future reporting periods, MCOs must additionally report on geographic access for the following levels of care/services:
  - 1. ASAM Level 1:
    - a. Community Support
    - b. Outpatient Psychotherapy (Individual, Group, Family)
  - 2. ASAM Level 2.1: Intensive Outpatient

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.

3. ASAM Level 2.5: Adult Substance Use Day Treatment
  4. ASAM Level 3.1: Halfway House
  5. ASAM Level 3.2 WM: Social Detoxification
  6. ASAM Level 3.3
    - a. Intermediate Residential (Co-Occurring Diagnosis Capable)
    - b. Therapeutic Community (Co-Occurring Diagnosis Capable)
  7. ASAM Level 3.5
    - a. Short Term Residential (Co-Occurring Diagnosis Capable)
    - b. Dual Disorder Residential (Co-Occurring Diagnosis-Enhanced)
  8. ASAM Level 3.7 WM: Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management
  9. Medication Assisted Treatment
    - a. Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)
    - b. Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT)
- B. In addition, MCOs will be required to maintain a list of qualified practitioners (Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, and Certified Nurse-Midwives) who have been approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and have an x-designation from the Drug Enforcement Administration to administer, dispense, and prescribe buprenorphine.

DHHS recognizes that MCOs have not historically tracked buprenorphine prescribers outside of the OTP setting, and will work with MCOs to identify acceptable processes for collecting this information.

- C. DHHS will provide MCOs with an updated reporting template for Geographic Access Standards, which outlines the specific services and levels of care to be reflected in the quarterly network access report. Additionally, MCOs will be required to address improving access to SUD services in their annual network development plans.

If you have questions regarding this Health Plan Advisory, please contact Todd Baustert at (402) 890-8939 or via email at [todd.baustert@nebraska.gov](mailto:todd.baustert@nebraska.gov). Health plans should also copy their contract manager.

Health Plan Advisories, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Heritage-Health-Plan-Advisories.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Health Plan Advisories.