



NEW DIRECTIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

2023 Medical Necessity Criteria Updates

WebPass Guide for Providers

November 2022

New Directions 2023 Medical Necessity Criteria

Beginning January 1, 2023, New Directions will use LOCUS/CALOCUS, ECSII and ASAM Criteria for medical necessity reviews.

These criteria sets will replace New Directions' current Medical Necessity Criteria for reviews of services provided on or after Jan. 1, 2023.

New Directions medical policies will apply to the following treatments and services, as applicable:

- Applied Behavior Analysis for the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ABA for ASD)
- Applied Behavior Analysis for the Treatment of Down Syndrome (ABA for DS)
- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)
- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
- Psychological/Neuropsychological Testing
- 23-Hour Observation

New Directions 2023 Criteria

Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) will be used to evaluate behavioral health treatment requests for adults age 19+

Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS) will be used to evaluate mental health treatment requests for children and adolescents ages 6 to 18 years

Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII) will be used to evaluate mental health treatment requests for infants, toddlers and children ages birth through 5 years

ASAM Criteria will be used to evaluate substance use disorder service and treatment requests

New Directions 2023 Criteria

LOCUS was developed by the American Association of Community Psychiatrists (AACCP). CALOCUS was developed by AACCP in collaboration with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). Both are maintained by Deerfield Solutions, LLC. ECSII was developed by AACAP. The ASAM Criteria was developed by the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

New Directions administers each benefit as designed by the health plan and set out in the member's benefit agreement. The presence of a specific level of care criteria within a criteria set does not constitute the existence of a specific benefit. Providers and facilities should verify the member's available benefits online when available, or by contacting the applicable customer service department.

View the criteria

Welcome to New Directions WebPass

WebPass allows providers and partners access to communications and services with New Directions.

- [2022 Medical Necessity Criteria](#)
- [2021 Medical Necessity Criteria](#)

Find an Insured Member

Member Number:

Date of Birth:

Query Date:

For Blue Products, drop the pre-fix information. Example: LCKHT12345678 would be entered as H12345678, or YBC12K123456 as 12K123456.

Last Name:

First Name:

Date of Birth:

Query Date:

If the member is not managed by New Directions Behavioral Health, the member's information will not be available.

2023 Medical Necessity Criteria

New Directions Behavioral Health (New Directions) utilizes medical necessity criteria to make medical necessity determinations. The medical necessity criteria set applied varies according to the behavioral health service being requested. To determine which criteria set will be used, please refer to the list below:

- Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS™) will be used to evaluate mental health treatment requests for adults age 18+
- Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS™) will be used to evaluate mental health treatment requests for children and adolescents, ages 6 to 19.
- Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII™) Criteria will be used to evaluate mental health treatment requests for children under age 6.
- The ASAM Criteria will be used to evaluate substance use disorder service and treatment requests
- New Directions medical policies apply to the following treatments and services:
 - Applied Behavior Analysis for the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ABA for ASD)
 - Applied Behavior Analysis for the Treatment of Down Syndrome (ABA for DS)
 - Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)
 - Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
 - Psychological/Neuropsychological Testing (PNT)
 - 23-Hour Observation

LOCUS was developed by the American Association of Community Psychiatrists (AACCP), while CALOCUS was developed by AACCP in collaboration with the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). Both are maintained by Deerfield Solutions, LLC. The ASAM Criteria was developed by the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Access to LOCUS can be found by clicking [here](#).

Access to CALOCUS can be found by clicking [here](#).

Access to the ASAM Criteria can be found by clicking [here](#). Copyright 2015 by the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Reprinted with permission. No third party may copy this document in whole or in part in any format or medium without the prior written consent of ASAM.

The Criteria are intended for use with multiple health plans and benefit structures. New Directions administers each benefit as designed by the health plan and set out in the member's benefit agreement. The presence of a specific level of care criteria within a criteria set does not constitute the existence of a specific benefit. Providers and facilities should verify the member's available benefits online when available, or by contacting the applicable Customer Service department.

Additional information about LOCUS/CALOCUS and ASAM is available [here](#).

Please contact PWWebPass@ndbh.com for any additional questions.

The new criteria will be available when logged into WebPass to the right of the member search feature where announcements are typically posted.

Utilizing the new criteria

Authorization for Admission to Care Request Forms

Initial Authorization Request	New
ABA Initial Assessment	New
ABA Initial Treatment	New
TMS	New
ECT Initial	New
Psychological Testing	New
Retrospective Request Form	New

In WebPass, select a new initial authorization request form for all Initial Inpatient, Residential, Partial Hospital and Intensive Outpatient Requests

Please note, Children under 6 years require a live review with one of our Clinical Team members and requests should not be submitted through WebPass.

Level of care crosswalk

NDBH Legacy levels of care are not exact matches to new LOC. This chart is a suggested crosswalk. As always, please use clinical judgment and intensity of service to determine which level of care is most appropriate to the treatment provided.

Legacy LOC	New LOC
Crisis Intervention Service - Psych	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 6 - Medically Managed Residential Services
Psychiatric Acute Inpatient	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 6 - Medically Managed Residential Services
Psychiatric Residential	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 5 - Medically Monitored Residential Services
Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 4 - Medically Monitored Non-Residential Services
Psychiatric Intensive Outpatient	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 3 - High Intensity Community Based Services
Eating Disorder Acute Inpatient	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 6 - Medically Managed Residential Services
Eating Disorder Residential	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 5 - Medically Monitored Residential Services
Eating Disorder Partial Hospital	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 4 - Medically Monitored Non-Residential Services
Eating Disorder Intensive Outpatient	LOCUS/CALOCUS Level 3 - High Intensity Community Based Services
Crisis Intervention Service - SUD	ASAM Level 4 - Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Services
Substance Use Disorder Inpatient Withdrawal Management	ASAM Level 4-WM -- Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Withdrawal Management
Substance Use Disorder Inpatient Rehabilitation	ASAM Level 4 - Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Services
Substance Use Disorder Inpatient Withdrawal Management	ASAM Level 3.7-WM -- Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Withdrawal Management
Substance Use Disorder Residential/Subacute Withdrawal Management	ASAM Level 3.7-WM -- Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Withdrawal Management
Substance Use Disorder Residential/Subacute Rehabilitation	ASAM Level 3.7 - Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Services
Substance Use Disorder Residential/Subacute Rehabilitation	ASAM Level 3.5 - Clinically Managed Medium-Intensity Residential Services
Substance Use Disorder Partial Day Rehabilitation	ASAM Level 2.5 - Partial Hospitalization Services
Substance Use Disorder Intensive Outpatient Rehabilitation	ASAM Level 2.1 - Intensive Outpatient Services
Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Rehabilitation	ASAM Level 1 - Outpatient Services
Substance Use Disorder Ambulatory Withdrawal Management	ASAM Level 1 - Outpatient Services

Level of Care Definitions

Level of Service or Care requested: * Required

[View CALOCUS Defintitions](#)

[View LOCUS Definitions](#)

- LOCUS Level 3: High Intensity Community Based Services
- LOCUS Level 4: Medically Monitored Non-Residential Services
- LOCUS Level 5: Medically Monitored Residential Services
- LOCUS Level 6: Medically Managed Residential Services
- CALOCUS Level 3: High Intensity Community Based Services
- CALOCUS Level 4: Medically Monitored Non-Residential Services
- CALOCUS Level 5: Medically Monitored Residential Services
- CALOCUS Level 6: Medically Managed Residential Services
- ASAM Level 2.1 - Intensive Outpatient Services
- ASAM Level 2.5 - Partial Hospitalization Services
- ASAM Level 3.5 - Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services
- ASAM Level 3.7 - Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient Services
- ASAM Level 3.7-WM -- Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management
- ASAM Level 4 - Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Services
- ASAM Level 4-WM -- Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Withdrawal Management
- 23 Hour Observation

Links containing definitions of each LOCUS and CALOCUS level of care are embedded in the review form for reference. The definitions can be downloaded for reference when not logged into the system.

Please Note ASAM definitions are not integrated into WebPass.

LOCUS and CALOCUS Definitions

Example

The links referenced in the prior slide will remain in the form and can be downloaded for reference when not logged into the system

The Level of Care Definition will open in PDF format as shown in the example to the right

LEVEL FOUR: Medically Monitored Community Based Services

This level of care refers to services provided to children and adolescents capable of living in the community with support, either in their family, or in placements such as group homes, foster care, homeless or domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing. To be eligible for Level Four services, a child or adolescent's service needs will require the involvement of multiple components within the system of care. These children and adolescents, therefore, need intensive, clinically informed case management to coordinate multi-system and multidisciplinary interventions. Services in this level of care include partial hospitalization, intensive day treatment, treatment foster care, and home-based care determined by a wraparound plan that may involve both support and clinical services brought to the home and various support services for parents/caregivers. Level Four services also may be provided in schools, substance abuse programs, juvenile justice facilities, social services group care facilities, mental health facilities, or in the child or adolescent's home.

Payer oversight may be required for this level of service, but reviews should not be required more often than every four weeks for acute care settings such as partial hospital, and no more than every three months for extended care services such as wraparound. Professionals providing services should be appropriately licensed and certified. Many support services may be provided by appropriately trained and/or certified paraprofessionals, including certified family and peer specialists.

LOCUS and CALOCUS Dimensions

The request form includes sections for each LOCUS and CALOCUS dimension. Click each section heading for guidance evaluating the member's symptoms and risk factors related to that dimension.

For example, clicking 'Risk of Harm' will open the text shown below.

RISK OF HARM

[Click here for more information](#)

Please check all statements that apply. **Required**

RISK OF HARM

This dimension considers a child or adolescent's potential to be harmed by others or cause significant harm to self or others. Each category contains items that assess a child or adolescent's risk of harming him/herself and of harming others. While Risk of Harm most frequently is manifested by suicidal or homicidal behavior, it also may embody unintentional harm from misinterpretations of reality; inability to adequately care for oneself, temper impulses, use good judgment; or avoid gross mishandling of alcohol or drugs of abuse. Children of any age who have experienced severe and/or repeated abuse in a hostile environment may be unable to perceive threat or take adequate measures to increase their safety.

In addition to direct evidence of potentially dangerous behavior or vulnerability from interview and observation, other factors may be considered in determining the likelihood of such behavior, such as past history of dangerous behavior, abuse and neglect, inability to contract for safety, and inability to use available supports. It also is important to be alert to racial or ethnic biases that may lead clinicians to misinterpret behaviors as threatening or dangerous.

LOCUS and CALOCUS

You will score each dimension on a scale of 1 (lowest risk) to 5 (highest risk) by checking all statements that apply to the member's current presentation. Some of the statements that you will consider when evaluating 'Risk of Harm' are shown here.

Please check all statements that apply * Required

1 - Low Risk of Harm

- No indication of current suicidal or homicidal thoughts or impulses, with no significant distress, and no history of suicidal or homicidal ideation
- No indication or report of physically or sexually aggressive impulses
- Developmentally appropriate ability to maintain physical safety and/or use environment for safety
- Low risk for victimization, abuse, or neglect

2 - Some Risk of Harm

- Past history of fleeting suicidal or homicidal thoughts with no current ideation, plan, or intention and no significant distress
- Mild suicidal ideation with no intent or conscious plan and with no past history
- Indication or report of occasional impulsivity, and/or some physically or sexually aggressive impulses with minimal consequences for self or others
- Substance use without significant endangerment of self or others
- Infrequent, brief lapses in the ability to care for self and/or use environment for safety
- Some risk for victimization, abuse, or neglect

3 - Significant Risk of Harm

- Significant current suicidal or homicidal ideation with some intent and plan, with an ability for the child or adolescent and his/her family to contract for safety and carry out a safety plan. Child or adolescent expresses some reason not to carry out such behavior

ASAM

When selecting an ASAM level of care in WebPass, you will provide information about the member's substance use and related risk factors. The form will ask you to rate the severity of impact these factors have on the member's current ability to function, as shown in the example:

Has a depression screening been completed? * Required

Yes
 No

Suicidality Assessment (select all that apply): * Required

Suicidal Ideation
 Suicidal Plan
 Suicidal Intent
 Current Suicide Attempt (within 3 days of admission)
 Current Suicide Means
 None of the Above

Does the member exhibit current physically aggressive behavior or threats? * Required

Yes
 No

How much do any of these emotional health symptoms make it harder for the member to take care of self? (e.g., hygiene, grooming, dressing, eating, housework, living independently, etc.) Please describe: * Required

Not at all
 A Little
 Somewhat
 Very
 Extremely

How much do any of these emotional health symptoms make it harder for the member to go to school, work, socialize or engage in hobbies or other interests? * Required

Not at all
 A Little
 Somewhat
 Very
 Extremely