

Adult Withdrawal Management Services

Overview

Withdrawal management services are provided to help people safely withdraw from the physical effects of psychoactive substances. The need for withdrawal management services is determined by patient assessment using the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder (MAUD) are available and used for individuals who need them. These medications are also available as maintenance medications for those who want and/or need them.

There are three levels of facility types recognized in Washington State. Assessment of severity, medical complications, and specific drug or alcohol withdrawal risk determines placement within each level of service:

ASAM 3.2-WM-(Clinically-managed) residential withdrawal management:

Clinically managed residential facilities are considered sub-acute withdrawal management treatment. They have limited medical coverage by staff and counselors who monitor patients and generally, any treatment medications are self-administered. Both program and facility licensure are regulated by the Department of Health (DOH).

ASAM 3.7-WM – (Medically-monitored) residential withdrawal management:

Medically monitored inpatient programs are considered acute withdrawal management treatment. They have medical coverage by nurses with physicians on-call 24/7 for consultation. They have “standing orders” and available medications to help with withdrawal symptoms. They are not hospitals but have referral relationships for higher levels of care. These facilities are regulated by DOH.

ASAM 4.0-WM – acute hospital withdrawal management:

Medically managed intensive inpatient are considered acute hospital withdrawal management services. They have medical coverage from nurses with doctors available 24/7. There is full access to medical acute care, including ICU if needed. Doctors, nurses, and counselors work as a part of an interdisciplinary team who medically manage the care of the patient. These facilities are regulated by DOH and hospital license.

Authority

RCW 71.24.520

WAC 246-341-1100 through WAC 246- 341-1106

Eligibility requirements

Adults (18 or older) who meet clinical criteria for withdrawal management services and are low-income or Medicaid-eligible, or who have other insurance.

Budget for SFY 25

The Medicaid funding for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services is a benefit under Apple Health. Since moving to managed care, there is no longer a separate budget for these services. In addition to the PMPM for Medicaid clients, Medicaid and low-income clients can access non-Medicaid services through BH-ASOs using the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) and the GF-State funding sources.

ESSB 5950 Section 215 identifies state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 is \$10,015,000 of the general fund.

Data

Number of individuals served in adult community based withdrawal management for 2024 as of 9/24/2024 for ages 18 and above is 6167.

Rates

Rates vary between BHOs, managed care organizations (MCOs), and their providers.

Partners

The Health Care Authority (HCA) contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide

Medicaid services. HCA Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) also collaborates with counties, treatment providers, drug courts, tribes, and other state partners to ensure referral to the SUD service delivery system. HCA manages contracts with the following BH-ASOs to provide non-Medicaid crisis services and non-Medicaid services to low-income and Medicaid eligible individuals: Great Rivers, Greater Columbia, King, North Central, North Sound, Salish, Spokane,

Thurston Mason, Carenton Southwest, Carenton North Central, and Carenton Pierce.

For more information

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