



ASAM PYRAMID

ASAM LEVELS OF
CARE FOR ADULT
DETOXIFICATION

Introduction

This review outlines the five levels of detoxification care outlined by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). The pyramid depicts the five levels of detoxification care that ASAM has identified.

Level I-D

AMBULATORY DETOXIFICATION WITHOUT EXTENDED ON-SITE MONITORING

1. Organized outpatient service.
2. May be delivered in an office setting, healthcare or addiction treatment facility or in a patient's home.
3. Trained clinicians provide medically supervised evaluation, detoxification and referral services in regularly scheduled sessions.
4. Services should be delivered under a defined set of policies and procedures or medical protocols.

Level II-D

AMBULATORY DETOXIFICATION WITH EXTENDED ON-SITE MONITORING

1. Organized outpatient service.
2. May be delivered in an office setting or healthcare or addiction treatment facility.
3. Trained clinicians provide medically supervised evaluation, detoxification, and referral services in regularly scheduled sessions.
4. Essential to this level of care is the availability of appropriately credentialed and licensed nurses (RN, LPN) who monitor patients over a period of several hours each day of service.

Level III-D

RESIDENTIAL/INPATIENT DETOXIFICATION

There are two different parts within this level. The first is Level III-D, or Residential/Inpatient Detoxification. Criteria are provided for two types of Level III detoxification programs:

1. The "residential" level has in the past been synonymous with rehabilitation services.
2. Detoxification services and the "inpatient" level of care have been synonymous with acute inpatient hospital care.

Level III.2-D

CLINICALLY MANAGED RESIDENTIAL DETOXIFICATION

1. Sometimes referred to as "social setting" detoxification.
2. Organized service that may be delivered by appropriately trained staff who provide 24 hour supervision, observation, and support for patients who are intoxicated or are experiencing withdrawal.
3. Characterized by emphasis on peer and social support.

Level III.7-D

MEDICALLY MONITORED INPATIENT DETOXIFICATION

The second part of this level is Level III.7-D, defined by the following characteristics:

1. Organized service delivered by medical and nursing professionals, which provides for 24-hour medically supervised evaluation and withdrawal management.
2. A permanent facility with inpatient beds and services that are delivered under a defined set of physician-approved policies and physician-monitored procedures or clinical protocols.
3. 24-hour observation, monitoring, and treatment are available.
4. Relies on established clinical protocols to identify patients who are in need of medical services beyond the capacity of the facility in order to transfer such patients to the appropriate level of care.
4. Provides care to patients whose withdrawal signs and symptoms are sufficiently severe to require 24-hour inpatient care.
5. Sometimes provided by overlapping with Level IV-D services (as a "step down" service) in a specialty unit of an acute general or psychiatric hospital.
6. Full resources of an acute general hospital or a medically managed intensive inpatient treatment program are not necessary.

Level IV-D

MEDICALLY MANAGED INTENSIVE INPATIENT DETOXIFICATION

1. Organized service delivered by medical and nursing professionals, which provides for 24-hour medically directed evaluation and withdrawal management in an acute care inpatient

setting.

2. Provides care to patients whose withdrawal signs and symptoms are sufficiently severe to require primary medical and nursing care services.
3. 24-hour observation, monitoring, and treatment are available.
4. Specially designed for acute medical detoxification.