



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

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ASAM Welcomes Reintroduction of Bipartisan Legislation to Expand Medicare Coverage for Residential Addiction Treatment

The Residential Recovery for Seniors Act would establish a Medicare benefit for residential addiction treatment programs meeting nationally recognized standards, filling a long-standing gap in coverage

Rockville, MD – Today, the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) applauded the reintroduction of **The Residential Recovery for Seniors Act (H.R. 9538)**, which would expand Medicare coverage to non-hospital-based residential addiction treatment programs. The bipartisan legislation, co-led by Reps. Lauren Underwood, Paul Tonko, Carol Miller, and David Valadao, would create a Medicare Part A benefit for programs that meet nationally recognized standards. It would also establish a prospective payment system for these programs.

"Substance use disorders impact people of all ages, including our nation's seniors, who unfortunately do not have Medicare coverage for the full range of addiction treatment services. Lack of Medicare coverage for non-hospital-based residential addiction treatment programs can put seniors at risk of forgoing the care that best fits their needs, potentially leading to more costly hospitalizations and poorer health outcomes," said Stephen M. Taylor, MD, MPH, DFAPA, DFASAM, president of ASAM. "The Residential Recovery for Seniors Act reduces the cost barrier for seniors by extending coverage to this level of care. By conditioning Medicare reimbursement on meeting national quality standards, it also helps ensure that patients are receiving high-quality, evidence-based treatment services that can lead to recovery."

Non-hospital-based residential addiction treatment is the only level of care not covered by Medicare. This creates an access barrier for Medicare beneficiaries, the majority of which are seniors. In 2023, [over six million Medicare patients](#) had a substance use disorder (SUD), but less than 25% received treatment. [One in three](#) cite financial barriers as a reason for not seeking care. Strengthening patient access to the full continuum of SUD care can help avert costly hospitalizations and emergency care stays that may occur when SUD goes untreated.

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About the American Society of Addiction Medicine

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), founded in 1954, is a professional medical society representing over 8,000 physicians, clinicians, and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of

addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction. For more information, visit www.ASAM.org.