

Appendix G: Methodology

Task Force Formation

ASAM conducted a national call for experts to comprise the Task Force. ASAM's Executive Council oversaw the appointment of clinicians with expertise in the topic area. The Executive Council reviewed disclosures of interest. No members of the Task Force had high-level conflicts relating to the topic.

Literature Review

ASAM staff completed a structured literature review on November 5, 2024. Searches were conducted in PubMed using search criteria defined by subject matter experts (Table F.1). Search terms were limited to title/abstract, and searches were limited to articles published about humans since 2014. Title and abstract—followed by full text—reviews were conducted using prespecified inclusion and exclusion criteria. ASAM staff extracted study findings and methods in extraction tables. The extraction tables and full text articles were provided to the Task Force for review and consideration prior to content development.

Table G.1. Structured Literature Search Strategy

PubMed Search Completed November 5, 2024		
Search	Search Terms	Hits
1	((Bridge clinic[Title/Abstract]) OR (Transition treatment[Title/Abstract])) OR (Low threshold buprenorphine[Title/Abstract]) OR (Bridge treatment[Title/Abstract])	222
2	((substance related disorders[MeSH Terms]) AND (aftercare[MeSH Terms])) AND (((hospitals[MeSH Terms]) OR (hospitalization[MeSH Terms])) OR (hospitalized patients[Title/Abstract])) OR (inpatient[Title/Abstract])) OR (inpatient management[Title/Abstract]))	628
3	((((((((((("addiction consult service"[Title/Abstract]) OR (Referral and consultation[MeSH Terms])) OR (Addiction consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* service[Title/Abstract]) OR (Addiction medicine consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* liaison[Title/Abstract])) OR (referral to treatment*[Title/Abstract]) OR (Addiction treatment services[Title/Abstract]) OR (Substance use consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* medicine[Title/Abstract])) AND ((Substance-related disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR (Substance abuse detection[MeSH Terms]))	3268
4	((((((((((Hospitals[MeSH Terms]) OR (hospitalization[MeSH Terms])) OR (Hospitalized patients[Title/Abstract])) OR (inpatient[Title/Abstract])) OR (Inpatient management[Title/Abstract])) OR (Inpatient addiction medicine[Title/Abstract]) AND (((((((((((("addiction consult service"[Title/Abstract]) OR (Referral and consultation[MeSH Terms])) OR (Addiction consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* service[Title/Abstract]) OR (Addiction medicine consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* liaison[Title/Abstract])) OR (referral to treatment*[Title/Abstract]) OR (Addiction treatment services[Title/Abstract]) OR (Substance use consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* medicine[Title/Abstract])) AND ((Substance-related disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR (Substance abuse detection[MeSH Terms]))	731
5	((Emergency medical services[MeSH Terms]) OR (Emergency medicine[MeSH Terms])) AND (((((((((((("addiction consult service"[Title/Abstract]) OR (Referral and consultation[MeSH Terms])) OR (Addiction consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* service[Title/Abstract]) OR (Addiction medicine consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* liaison[Title/Abstract])) OR (referral to treatment*[Title/Abstract]) OR (Addiction treatment services[Title/Abstract]) OR (Substance use consult*[Title/Abstract]) OR (consult* medicine[Title/Abstract])) AND ((Substance-related disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR (Substance abuse detection[MeSH Terms]))	423
6	((((((((((Opioid substitution treatment[MeSH Terms]) OR (Buprenorphine[MeSH Terms])) OR (Naltrexone[MeSH Terms])) OR (Methadone[MeSH Terms])) OR (Opioid-related disorders/drug therapy[MeSH Terms])) OR (Medicine assisted treatment[Title/Abstract])) OR (Medications for opioid use disorder[Title/Abstract])) OR (Medication for addiction treatment[Title/Abstract])) AND (((((((((((Hospitals[MeSH Terms]) OR (hospitalization[MeSH Terms])) OR (Hospitalized patients[Title/Abstract])) OR (inpatient[Title/Abstract])) OR (Inpatient management[Title/Abstract])) OR (Inpatient addiction medicine[Title/Abstract])) AND ((substance related disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR (substance abuse detection[MeSH Terms]))	1519
7	((((((Opiate substitution treatment[MeSH Terms]) OR (Buprenorphine[MeSH Terms])) OR (Naltrexone[MeSH Terms])) OR (Methadone[MeSH Terms])) AND ((Emergency medical services[MeSH Terms]) OR (Emergency medicine[MeSH Terms])) AND ((Substance-related disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR (Substance abuse detection[MeSH Terms]))	480
Compile and filter for English and publication date		
8	Individual searches were filtered for: English, from 1/1/2014 - 11/5/2024 [or present date] Searches were combined in EndNote, and duplicates were removed	1611

External Stakeholder Review and Approval

Twenty field reviewers provided detailed feedback on the full draft document in April 2025. The Task Force reviewed all comments and updated the document to address identified concerns. ASAM's Board of Directors, Quality Improvement Council (QIC) and Public Policy Coordinating Council provided feedback on the semi-final document in October 2025. The Task Force reviewed all comments and updated the document to address identified concerns. ASAM's Board of Directors approved the final document in December 2025.

Standards Development

The ASAM Criteria standards for general hospitals referred to herein were developed in accordance with the established methodology for updating *The ASAM Criteria* standards.³² Development was informed by a structured literature review. The existing Level 4 General Hospital standards previously published in *The ASAM Criteria*, Fourth Edition, Volume 1: Adults were reviewed and revised by the Task Force. A separate voting panel comprised of experts with no conflicts of interest participated in a modified Delphi process. The panel members voted on the appropriateness of each standard, rating each as appropriate, uncertain, or inappropriate. The Task Force worked with the voting panel to address concerns and modify the standards as needed.

The draft standards were released for invited stakeholder review in August 2025. The Task Force systematically analyzed the feedback and modified the standards before submitting them to the ASAM Criteria Strategy Steering Committee and QIC for approval in October 2025.

Appendix H: Disclosures of Interest

2025 Task Force Member Relationships with Industry and Other Entities						
Task Force Member	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Institutional, Organizational or Other Financial Benefit	Research
Chethan Bachireddy, MD, MSc, FACP, FASAM	Harris Health	None	None	Amgen; Agenus; Mink Therapeutics; Radiant-Graph	None	None
Arianna Campbell, PA-C, MPH	VA Northern California Healthcare System	None	None	None	None	None
Itai Danovitch, MD, MBA, DFAPA, DFASAM	Cedars Sinai Medical Center	None	None	Workit Health	Bexson Biomedical	None
Honora Englander, MD	Oregon Health and Science University	Expert witness*	Boston Medical Center*	None	None	None
Drew Fuller, MD, MPH, FACEP, FASAM	Brightwell Health	None	None	Brightwell Health**	None	None
Andrew Herring, MD	Highland Hospital, Alameda Health System	None	None	None	None	None
Maureen McCollough, MD, MPH	Oliveview UCLA Medical Center	None	None	None	None	None
Sarah Wakeman, MD, FASAM	Mass General Brigham	Expert witness*	None	None	Celero Systems*	None

The above table presents relationships of the Task Force members during the past 12 months with industry and other entities that were determined to be relevant to this document. These relationships are current as of the completion of this document and may not necessarily reflect relationships at the time of this document's publication. A relationship is considered to be significant if the individual receives compensation that includes cash, shares, and/or anything else of value including direct ownership of shares, stock, stock options or other interest of 5% more of an entity or valued at \$10,000 or more (excluding mutual funds), whichever is greater. A relationship is considered to be modest if it is less than significant under the preceding definition. A relationship is considered to be unpaid if the individual does not receive monetary reimbursement. ** Indicates significant relationship. * Indicates modest relationship

2025 Field Reviewers Relationships with Industry and Other Entities						
Field Reviewer	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bureau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Institutional, Organizational or Other Financial Benefit	Research
Erin Barnes, MD	Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist/ Advocate Health System	None	None	None	None	None
Christopher Blazes, MD	Portland VAMC, OHSU	Expert witness*	None	None	None	None
Susan Calcaterra, MD, MPH, MS	University of Colorado	Indivior*	None	None	None	National Institutes of Health**
James Chan, MD, PhD, FACEP	Bon Secours Mercy Health St. Rita's Medical Center	None	None	None	None	None
Manuel Celedon, MD	VA Greater Los Angeles Health-care System	None	None	None	None	None
Jose Partida Corona, MD, FASAM	Partida Corona Medical Center	None	None	None	None	None
Huiqiong Deng, MD, PhD	Stanford University	None	None	None	None	None
Evan Gale, MD	Massachusetts General Hospital	None	None	None	None	None
Jason Kirby, DO, MBA, DFASAM	PursueCare, LLC	None	None	None	None	None
Nathaniel Kratz, MD	New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center	None	None	None	None	None
Colleen Lane, MD	Corewell Health	None	None	None	None	None
Samuela Manages, MD, FAAFP, DABFM	Pines Health Services	None	None	None	None	None
Jeanmarie Perrone, MD	University of Pennsylvania Health System	None	None	None	None	None
Kelly S. Ramsey, MD, MPH, MA, FACP, DFASAM	Kelly S. Ramsey Consulting, LLC	Expert witness**	None	None	None	None
Kristine Torres-Lockhart, MD	Montefiore Medical Center	None	None	None	None	None
Melinda Turner, MD	Behavioral Health Group	None	None	None	None	None

2025 Field Reviewers Relationships with Industry and Other Entities

Field Reviewer	Employment	Consultant	Speakers Bu- reau	Ownership/ Partnership/ Principal	Institutional, Organizational or Other Financial Benefit	Research
Nina Vadie, PharmD, BCPP	The University of Texas at Austin	None	None	None	None	None
Melissa Villars, MD	Mercy Hospital	None	None	None	None	None
Scott Weiner, MD, MPH	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Vertex Pharmaceuticals**; Cessation Therapeutics*; OpiAID, Inc*	None	None	The Naloxone Project	None
Michael Wilson, MD	Carilion Medical Center	Expert witness*	None	None	American Association for Emergency Psychiatry; Coalition on Psychiatric Emergencies; Journal of Emergency Medicine	None

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