



**ASAM** American Society of  
Addiction Medicine

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**New ASAM Handbook of Addiction Medicine, Third Edition, Aims to Help Primary Care Providers Confidently Treat Addiction**

*The third edition includes updated strategies for treating pregnant patients and new pathways to prescribe medications for addiction treatment*

**Rockville, MD** – Today, the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), a leading medical society dedicated to improving addiction care, released the third edition of the [ASAM Handbook of Addiction Medicine](#). The handbook offers evidence-based strategies for evaluating and treating patients with substance use disorders (SUD), and the third edition adds updated information on addiction treatment for pregnant patients, available pathways for physicians to prescribe medications for addiction treatment, and dosing guides.

[Physicians cite](#) a lack of skills and knowledge among the top reasons for not treating addiction. To help address this knowledge gap, the handbook provides practical, evidence-based strategies for managing the care of patients with addiction. This includes relevant information on medications for addiction treatment, treatment protocols for specific drug classes, and ethical and legal considerations, among other resources.

"The goal of the handbook is to equip current and future non-addiction specialist clinicians with the knowledge and confidence to treat patients with addiction," said Michael I. Fingerhood, MD, co-editor of the *ASAM Handbook of Addiction Medicine, Third Edition*, and professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "Millions of Americans live with a substance use disorder, so it's crucial that we have a workforce that is knowledgeable and comfortable in treating this patient population with the latest evidence-based practices."

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Data from the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health show that [48.4 million Americans aged 12 or older had a SUD in the past year](#). Yet only 5.9 million (12.3%) received treatment, demonstrating a significant treatment gap. To address this, the handbook provides guidance on treatment regimens and strategies for establishing rapport with patients to create treatment goals.

"Primary care clinicians are often the only contact point with the healthcare system for many patients, putting them in a prime position to identify substance use disorders and help their patients develop an appropriate treatment plan," said Darius A. Rastegar, MD, co-editor of the handbook and professor of clinical medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "The long-term relationships that primary care clinicians develop with their patients also set them up well to motivate patients throughout their treatment and recovery journey."

The *ASAM Handbook of Addiction Medicine, Third Edition* is available [here](#).

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### **About the Editors**

Darius A. Rastegar, MD, FASAM, is a Professor of Clinical Medicine, directs the Addiction Medicine Unit at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, and is the program director for the Johns Hopkins Addiction Medicine Fellowship.

Michael I. Fingerhood, MD, FACP, DFASAM, is a Professor of Medicine and Public Health at Johns Hopkins and the Chief of the Division of Addiction Medicine.

### **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](http://www.ASAM.org).