



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

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April 16, 2014

**To:** Joint Legislative Oversight Committee Members on HHS  
Commission for MH/DD/SAS  
Consumer/Family Advisory Committee Chairs  
State CFAC  
Advocacy Organizations and Groups  
NC Association of County Commissioners  
County Managers  
County Board Chairs  
NC Council of Community Programs

State Facility Directors  
LME/MCO Directors  
LME/MCO Board Chairs  
DHHS Division Directors  
Provider Organizations  
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups  
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups  
NC Association of County DSS Directors

**From:** Courtney M. Cantrell 

**Communication Bulletin # 141: DSM 5 and ASAM  
Criteria**



The Fifth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) was released in May 2013. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will implement DSM-5 coding requirements effective August 1, 2014. The DSM-5 codes will be required for all dates of services beginning August 1, 2014. This timeframe gives clinical professionals additional time to learn the diagnostic codes for service authorization requests.

DSM-5 changes will apply to the following services:

- DMH/DD/SAS and DMA behavioral health services covered by the LME-MCOs.
- Behavioral health services authorized by Value Options and paid by NC Tracks for Health Choice beneficiaries and 0-3 year olds.

Additionally, The ASAM Criteria: Treatment Criteria for Addictive, Substance-Related, and Co-Occurring Conditions, Third Edition was published at the end of 2013. As of August 1, 2014, all clinical policies, rules, protocols, etc. will be updated to reflect this new manual. The use of ASAM is required for both DMH/DD/SAS and DMA in the determination of levels of care for substance abuse services.

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