

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY (ADAMHS BOARD)**

POLICY STATEMENT

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 24, 2023

PURPOSE

To ensure that residents of Cuyahoga County in need of withdrawal management services funded by the ADAMHS Board have sufficient aftercare planning as recommended by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria, and to expand access of withdrawal management to those afflicted with substance use disorder (SUD).

BACKGROUND

Withdrawal management is the initial process towards recovery from a substance use disorder and is designed to manage the acute and potentially dangerous physiological side effects of withdrawal from alcohol, opiates, and other substances. However, withdrawal management alone does not address the psychological, social, and behavioral problems associated with addiction, and therefore, does not produce lasting behavioral changes necessary for recovery. Withdrawal management services includes a formal assessment with recommendations for further treatment per ASAM criteria. The ASAM criteria is the most widely used and comprehensive set of guidelines for placement, continued stay, and transfer or discharge of patients with addiction and co-occurring conditions. Receiving repeated withdrawal management services in the absence of ongoing treatment is not effective for long-term success.

The ADAMHS Board recognizes that withdrawal management is not treatment. Given the reluctance of some clients to accept ongoing treatment following withdrawal management, the ADAMHS Board has been utilizing a continuum of best practices to overcome both client and system barriers. Thus, this Policy represents a *continuation* of, and an *expansion* of the best practices already utilized by providers. Such practices may include but are not limited to:

- SUD case management,
- Recovery coaches/peer support services,
- Developing treatment goals,
- Relapse prevention,
- Contingency management,
- Withdrawal management practice protocols,
- Motivational interviewing,
- Mindfulness mediation,
- Cognitive behavioral therapy,
- Art/music therapy,
- Linkage to the next level of care per ASAM criteria or given a list of referral sources,
- Holding clients until a bed is available for the next level of care,
- Verification of linkage,
- Assistance with transportation,
- Referral to 12 Steps, and
- Distribution of NARCAN and fentanyl test strips.

Lastly, the service provider contract language stipulates that providers must prioritize SUD treatment

for those clients being discharged from withdrawal management.

POLICY

It is the policy of the ADAMHS Board not to limit the number of times a client may receive withdrawal management services at any ADAMHS Board funded withdrawal management provider. Additionally, since withdrawal management is of a brief duration, providers shall provide discharge planning by linking clients to the next level of care per ASAM or provide harm reduction tools. A client receiving withdrawal management services shall not exceed a length of stay of five (5) days without prior authorization from the ADAMHS Board. For any such request, the provider shall submit clinical documentation for justification and authorization via the ADAMHS Board’s secure fax line at (216) 241-3928.


RESPONSIBILITIES

When a client presents at any ADAMHS Board funded withdrawal management provider, the screening information will be taken and sent to the ADAMHS Board to be entered into a database. The screening information will include, but is not limited to the client’s name, date of birth, and social security number, and sent to the ADAMHS Board’s secure fax line at (216) 241-3928. ADAMHS Board staff will follow-up with a verification email to the provider approving the withdrawal management services.

Additionally, ADAMHS Board staff will evaluate the effectiveness each provider’s withdrawal management services and aftercare planning by reviewing the frequency of a client returning for withdrawal management by having regular meetings and reviewing GOSH claims data of clients frequently returning withdrawal management services. With the findings, ADAMHS Board staff will work with providers to ensure that each provider is following the best practices for withdrawal management services and aftercare planning.


Supersedes and retires: Guidelines for Detoxification Services Funded with Non-Medicaid Dollars, effective October 24, 2018

Reference: Ohio Revised Code 340.033

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J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D.
ADAMHS Board Chair

May 24, 2023

Approval Date

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Scott S. Osiecki
ADAMHS Board Chief Executive Officer

May 2026

Review Date