

# ASAM Criteria – Determining Severity Ratings

## Dimension 1: Detoxification/Withdrawal Potential Assessment

### SEVERITY / INTENSITY RATING

(0=no problem or stable / 1=mild / 2=moderate / 3=substantial / 4= severe)

- 0** \_\_\_ Individual fully functioning w/ good ability to tolerate, cope with withdrawal discomfort  
\_\_\_ No signs or symptoms of withdrawal present or are resolving and if alcohol, a CIWA-Ar score of less than 3  
\_\_\_ No signs or symptoms of intoxication
- 1** \_\_\_ Adequate ability to tolerate or cope with withdrawal discomfort.  
\_\_\_ Mild to moderate intoxication, or signs, symptoms interfere w/daily functioning, but not a danger to self or others  
\_\_\_ Minimal risk of severe withdrawal resolving and if alcohol, a CIWA-Ar score of 3-7  
\_\_\_ Sub intoxication level
- 2** \_\_\_ Some difficulty tolerating and coping w/withdrawal discomfort  
\_\_\_ Intoxication may be severe, but responds to treatment so individual does not pose imminent danger to self or others  
\_\_\_ Moderate signs and symptoms with moderate risk of severe withdrawal  
\_\_\_ Somewhat intoxicated  
\_\_\_ If alcohol, a CIWA-Ar score if 8-11
- 3** \_\_\_ Demonstrates poor ability to tolerate and cope with withdrawal discomfort.  
\_\_\_ Severe signs and symptoms of intoxication indicating possible imminent danger to self & others  
\_\_\_ Severe signs and symptoms or risk of severe but manageable withdrawal; or withdrawal is worsening despite detoxification at less intensive level of care  
\_\_\_ Very intoxicated  
\_\_\_ If alcohol, a CIWA-Ar score if 12-15
- 4** \_\_\_ Incapacitated, with severe signs and symptoms of withdrawal  
\_\_\_ Severe withdrawal presents danger (e.g. seizures)  
\_\_\_ Continued use poses an imminent threat to life  
\_\_\_ Stuporous  
\_\_\_ If alcohol, a CIWA-Ar score over 15

## Dimension 2: Biomedical Conditions and Complications

- 0** \_\_\_ Fully functioning with good ability to tolerate or cope w/ physical discomfort  
\_\_\_ No biomedical signs or symptoms are present, or biomedical problems stable  
\_\_\_ No biomedical conditions that will interfere with treatment or create risk
- 1** \_\_\_ Demonstrates adequate ability to tolerate and cope with physical discomfort  
\_\_\_ Mild to moderate signs or symptoms interfere with daily functioning, but would likely not interfere with recovery treatment nor create risk
- 2** \_\_\_ Some difficulty tolerating and coping with physical problems and/or has other biomedical problems  
\_\_\_ Has a biomedical problem, which may interfere with recovery treatment  
\_\_\_ Has a need for medical services which might interfere with recovery treatment (e.g., kidney dialysis)  
\_\_\_ Neglects to care for serious biomedical problems  
\_\_\_ Acute, non-life threatening medical signs and symptoms are present

**3** \_\_\_ Demonstrates poor ability to tolerate and cope with physical problems and/or general health is poor

\_\_\_ Has serious medical problems he/she neglects during outpatient treatment that require frequent medical attention

\_\_\_ Severe medical problems are present but stable.

\_\_\_ Medical problem(s) present that would be severely exacerbated by a relapse

\_\_\_ Medical problem(s) present that would be severely exacerbated by withdrawal (e.g., diabetes, hypertension)

\_\_\_ Medical problems that require medical or nursing services

**4** \_\_\_ Incapacitated, with severe medical problems

\_\_\_ Severe medical problems that are life threatening risk

### **Dimension 3: Emotional/Behavioral/Cognitive Conditions and Complications**

**0** \_\_\_ No or stable mental health problems

**1** \_\_\_ Sub-clinical mental disorder

\_\_\_ Emotional concerns relate to negative consequences and effects of addiction.

\_\_\_ Suicidal ideation without plan

\_\_\_ Social role functioning impaired, but not endangered by substance use; mild symptoms that do not impair role functioning (e.g. social, school, or work)

\_\_\_ Mild to moderate signs and symptoms with good response to treatment in the past.

\_\_\_ Or past serious problems have long period of stability or are chronic, but do not pose high risk of harm

**2** \_\_\_ Suicidal ideation or violent impulses require more than routine monitoring

\_\_\_ Emotional, behavioral, or cognitive problems distract from recovery efforts.

\_\_\_ Symptoms are causing moderate difficulty in role functioning (e.g. school, work)

\_\_\_ Frequent and/or intense symptoms with a history of significant problems that are not well stabilized, but not imminently dangerous

\_\_\_ Emotional/behavioral/cognitive problems/symptoms distract from recovery efforts

\_\_\_ Problems with attention or distractibility interfere with recovery efforts

\_\_\_ History of non-adherence with required psychiatric medications

**3** \_\_\_ Frequent impulses to harm self or others which are potentially destabilizing, but not imminently dangerous

\_\_\_ Adequate impulse control to deal with thoughts of harm to self or others

\_\_\_ Uncontrolled behavior and cognitive deficits limit capacity for self-care, ADL's

\_\_\_ Acute symptoms dominate clinical presentation (e.g. impaired reality testing, communication, thought processes, judgment, personal hygiene, etc.) and significantly compromise community adjustment and follow through with treatment recommendations

**4** \_\_\_ Individual has severe and unstable psychiatric symptoms and requires secure confinement

\_\_\_ Severe and acute psychotic symptoms that pose immediate danger to self or others (e.g. imminent risk of suicide; gross neglect of self-care; psychosis with unpredictable, disorganized, or violent behavior)

\_\_\_ Recent history of psychiatric instability and/or escalating symptoms requiring high intensity services to prevent dangerous consequences

### **Dimension 4: Readiness to Change**

**0** \_\_\_ Willingly engaged in treatment as a proactive participant, is aware of/admits to having an addiction problem and is committed to addiction treatment and changing substance use and adherence with psychiatric medications

- Can articulate personal recovery goals
- Willing to cut negative influences
- Is in *Preparation* or *Action* Transtheoretical Stage of Change

**1**  Willing to enter treatment and explore strategies for changing AODA use or dealing with mental health disorder but is ambivalent about need for change ( is in *Contemplation* Stage of Change)

- Willing to explore the need for treatment and strategies to reduce or stop substance use
- Willing to change AODA use but believes it will not be difficult or will not accept a full recovery treatment plan or does not recognize that he/she has a substance use problem

**2**  Reluctant to agree to treatment for substance use or mental health problems but willing to be compliant to avoid negative consequences or may be legally required to engage in treatment

- Able to articulate negative consequences of AODA use but has low commitment to change use of substances
- Low readiness to change and is only passively involved in treatment
- Variably compliant with outpatient treatment, self help or other support groups

**3**  Exhibits inconsistent follow through and shows minimal awareness of AODA or mental health disorder and need for treatment

- Appears unaware of need to change and unwilling or only partially able to follow through with treatment recommendations

**4**  Unable to follow through, has little or no awareness of substance use or mental health problems and associated negative consequences

- Not willing to explore change and is in denial regarding illness and its implications
- Is not in imminent danger or unable to care for self – no immediate action required
- Unable to follow through with treatment recommendations resulting in imminent danger of harm to self/others or inability to care for self

#### **Dimension 5: Relapse/Continued Use/ Continued Problem Potential**

**0**  No potential for further AODA or MH problems

- Low relapse or continued use potential and good coping skills
- Is engaged with ongoing recovery/support groups
- Has positive expectancies about treatment
- No use of illicit drugs
- Has no demographic risk factor (under 25 years of age, never married or having lived as married, unemployed, no high school diploma or GED)
- No current craving
- No impulsivity noted
- Appropriately self-confident
- Not risk-taking or thrill-seeking
- No psychiatric medication required or adherent with psychiatric medications

**1**  Minimal relapse potential with some vulnerability

- Some craving with ability to resist
- One or two changeable demographic risk factors
- Marginally affected by external influences
- Mostly non-impulsive

- Mostly confident
- Low level of risk-taking or thrill-seeking
- Fair self-management and relapse prevention skills
- Needs support and counseling to maintain abstinence, deal with craving, peer pressure, and lifestyle and attitude changes
- Mostly adherent with prescribed psychiatric medications
- Episodic use of alcohol (less than weekly)
- Sporadic use of drugs (<1/week), not injected

**2** \_\_\_ Impaired recognition and understanding of substance use relapse issues

- Difficulty maintaining abstinence despite engagement in treatment
- Able to self-manage with prompting
- Some craving with minimal/sporadic ability to resist
- One or two durable demographic risk factors
- Moderately affected by external influences
- Neither-impulsive nor deliberate
- Uncertain about ability to recover or ambivalent
- Moderate level of risk-taking or thrill-seeking
- Mostly adherent with prescribed psychiatric medications with failure likely to result in moderate to severe problems
- Regular use of alcohol (once or twice a week)
- Moderate use of drugs (1-3X/week), not injected

**3** \_\_\_ Little recognition and understanding of substance use relapse

- Has poor skills to cope with and interrupt addiction problems, or to avoid or limit relapse or continued use
- Severe craving with minimal/sporadic ability to resist
- Three demographic risk factors
- Substantially affected by external influences
- Somewhat impulsive
- Dubious about ability to recover
- High level of risk-taking or thrill-seeking
- Mostly non-adherent with prescribed psychiatric medications with failure likely to result in moderate to severe problems
- Frequent use of alcohol (3 or more times a week)
- Frequent use of drugs (more than 3X/week) and/or smoking drugs

**4** \_\_\_ Repeated treatment episodes had little positive effect on functioning

- No skills to cope with and interrupt addiction problems or prevent/limit relapse or continued use
- Severe craving with no ability to resist
- Four or more significant demographic risks
- Totally outer-directed
- Very impulsive
- Very pessimistic or inappropriately confident about ability to recover but is not in imminent danger or unable to care for self – no immediate action required
- Dangerous level of risk-taking or thrill-seeking
- Not at all adherent with prescribed psychiatric medications with failure likely to result in severe problems
- Daily intoxication
- Daily use of illicit drugs and/or IV drug use
- Is in imminent danger or unable to care for self

## Dimension 6: Recovery Environment

**0** \_\_\_ Has a supportive environment or is able to cope with poor supports

- \_\_\_ Living in a dry, drug-free home
- \_\_\_ Few liquor outlets/no overt drug dealing
- \_\_\_ Subcultural norms strongly discourage abusive use
- \_\_\_ Positive leisure/recreational activities not associated with use
- \_\_\_ No risk for emotional, physical or sexual abuse
- \_\_\_ No logistical barriers to treatment or recovery

**1** \_\_\_ Has passive support in environment; family/significant other support system need to learn techniques to support the individual's recovery effort (e.g. limit setting, communication skills, etc.)

- \_\_\_ Significant others are not interested in supporting addiction recovery, but individual is not too distracted by this situation, and is able to cope with the environment
- \_\_\_ Individual demonstrates motivation and willingness to obtain a positive social support system
- \_\_\_ Safe supportive living situation in a non-dry or non drug-free home
- \_\_\_ Alcohol & drugs readily obtainable
- \_\_\_ Subcultural norms discourage abusive use
- \_\_\_ Leisure/recreational activities conducive to recovery available
- \_\_\_ Some risk for emotional, physical or sexual abuse
- \_\_\_ Logistical barriers to treatment or recovery can be readily overcome

**2** \_\_\_ Environment is not supportive of addiction recovery, but with clinical structure, individual is able to cope most of the time

- \_\_\_ Living alone
- \_\_\_ Ready access to alcohol & drugs near home
- \_\_\_ Subcultural norms inconsistent about abusive use
- \_\_\_ Leisure/recreational activities neutral for recovery
- \_\_\_ Above average risk for emotional, physical or sexual abuse
- \_\_\_ Logistical barriers to treatment or recovery serious but resolvable

**3** \_\_\_ Environment is not supportive of addiction recovery, and coping is difficult, even with clinical structure

- \_\_\_ Someone in the household currently dependent or abusing
- \_\_\_ Bars/liquor stores/dealers prevalent
- \_\_\_ Subcultural norms encourage abusive use
- \_\_\_ Alcohol and drugs readily available at preferred leisure/recreational activities
- \_\_\_ Substantial risk for emotional, physical or sexual abuse in current environment
- \_\_\_ Substantial logistical impediments to treatment or recovery

**4** \_\_\_ Environment is not supportive of addiction recovery and is hostile and toxic to recovery or treatment progress

- \_\_\_ Unstable residence, living in shelter or mission, homeless
- \_\_\_ Extensive drug dealing/solicitation
- \_\_\_ Subcultural norms strongly encourage abusive use
- \_\_\_ Leisure/recreational activities pose severe risks
- \_\_\_ Currently being emotionally, physically or sexually abused
- \_\_\_ Extreme logistical impediments to treatment or recovery
- \_\_\_ Unable to cope with negative effects of the living environment on recovery - **no immediate action required**

\_\_\_ *Environment is not supportive of addiction recovery, and is actively hostile to recovery, posing an immediate threat to safety and well-being - **immediate action required***