

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE HCPCS CODE USER'S GUIDE
UNOFFICIAL STANDARD DEFINITIONS**

**Prepared by:
The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
(NASADAD)**

**For:
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THIS GUIDE

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) with the support of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) developed this Substance Abuse HCPCS Code User's Guide – Unofficial Standard Definitions to assist user's of the codes to identify and apply the appropriate codes based on unofficial standard definitions of the codes.

NASADAD developed the code definitions in this Guide based on the definitions that were developed for the substance abuse code request package that was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). NASADAD obtained expert input from its members who are State leaders in the substance abuse field in the public sector and used a consensus development approach to develop the package. CMS approved the codes and assigned an alphanumeric number, a short title, and a long title but there are no official definitions. This Guide contains unofficial standard code definitions that are clear, consistent, and consensus based for use by individuals in the field who deliver substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROCEDURE CODES

H0001 Alcohol and/or drug assessment – means the evaluation of an individual by a clinician to determine the presence, nature, and extent of substance use disorder with the goal of formulating a plan for services (if such services are offered) and treating the client in the most appropriate treatment environment.

H0003 Alcohol and/or drug screening; laboratory analysis of specimens for presence of alcohol and/or drugs – means the laboratory testing of client specimens to detect the presence of alcohol and other drugs.

H0005 Alcohol and/or drug services; group counseling by a clinician – means services provided by a clinician to assist two or more individuals and/or their families/significant others to achieve treatment objectives through the exploration of substance use disorders and their ramifications, including an examination of attitudes and feelings, and considering alternative solutions and decision making with regard to alcohol and other drug related problems.

H0006 Alcohol and/or drug services; case management – means services provided to link individuals to, or to assist and support clients in gaining access to or to develop their skills for gaining access to needed medical, social, educational and other services essential to meeting basic human needs, as appropriate; to train the individual in the use of basic community services; and to monitor treatment progress and overall service delivery.

H0007 Alcohol and/or drug services; crisis intervention (outpatient) – means a face-to-face response to a crisis or emergency situation experienced by an individual, family member and/or significant others related to substance use disorders.

H0008 Alcohol and/or drug services; sub-acute detoxification (hospital inpatient) – means face-to-face interactions with an individual for the purpose of medically managing and monitoring withdrawal symptoms from alcohol and/or drug addiction in a hospital with appropriate accreditation, certification, and licensure, staffed with a registered nurse on the premises twenty-four hours per day and a licensed physician on call twenty-four hours per day. Detoxification services must be supervised by a licensed physician.

H0009 Alcohol and/or drug services; acute detoxification (hospital inpatient) – means face-to-face interactions with an individual for the purpose of medically managing and monitoring severe withdrawal symptoms from alcohol and/or drug addiction in a hospital with appropriate accreditation, certification, and licensure, staffed with a registered nurse on the premises twenty-four hours per day and a licensed physician on call twenty-four hours per day. Detoxification services must be supervised by a licensed physician.

H0010 Alcohol and/or drug services; sub-acute detoxification (residential addiction program inpatient) – means face-to-face interactions with an individual for the purpose of medically managing and monitoring withdrawal symptoms from alcohol and/or drug addiction in a residential addiction program with appropriate accreditation, certification, and licensure. The program shall be staffed with a sufficient number of personnel on a twenty-four hour per day basis to meet the health care needs of the residents served by personnel trained, authorized, and credentialed (where applicable) to carry out assigned job responsibilities consistent with scopes of practice, resident population characteristics and the resident’s individual plan of care/treatment.

H0011 Alcohol and/or drug services; acute detoxification (residential addiction program inpatient) - means face-to-face interactions with an individual for the purpose of medically managing and monitoring severe withdrawal symptoms from alcohol and/or drug addiction in a residential addiction program with appropriate accreditation, certification, and licensure. The program shall be staffed with a sufficient number of personnel on a twenty-four hour per day basis to meet the health care needs of the residents served by personnel trained, authorized, and credentialed (where applicable) to carry out assigned job responsibilities consistent with scopes of practice, resident population characteristics and the resident’s individual plan of care/treatment.

H0012 Alcohol and/or drug services; sub-acute detoxification (residential addiction program outpatient) - means face-to-face interactions with an individual for the purpose of medically managing and monitoring withdrawal symptoms from alcohol and/or drug addiction as an outpatient through a residential addiction program with appropriate accreditation, certification, and licensure. The program shall be staffed with a sufficient number of personnel on a twenty-four hour per day basis to meet the health care needs of the residents served by personnel trained, authorized, and credentialed (where applicable) to carry out assigned job responsibilities consistent with scopes of practice, resident population characteristics and the resident’s individual plan of care/treatment.

H0013 Alcohol and/or drug services; acute detoxification (residential addiction program outpatient) - means face-to-face interactions with an individual for the purpose of medically managing and monitoring severe withdrawal symptoms from alcohol and/or drug addiction as an outpatient through a residential addiction program

with appropriate accreditation, certification, and licensure. The program shall be staffed with a sufficient number of personnel on a twenty-four hour per day basis to meet the health care needs of the residents served by personnel trained, authorized, and credentialed (where applicable) to carry out assigned job responsibilities consistent with scopes of practice, resident population characteristics and the resident's individual plan of care/treatment.

H0014 Alcohol and/or drug services; ambulatory detoxification – means face-to-face interactions with an individual who is suffering mild to moderate symptoms of withdrawal, for the purpose of alcohol and/or drug detoxification. Detoxification services must be supervised by a licensed physician.

H0015 Alcohol and/or drug services; intensive outpatient treatment (treatment program that operates at least 3 hours/day and at least 3 days/week and is based on an individualized treatment plan) including assessment, counseling, crisis intervention, and activity therapies or education – means an intensive and structured individual and group alcohol and/or other drug treatment services and activities that are provided at least 3 hours a day and at least 3 days a week according to an individualized treatment plan that may include any of the range of discrete outpatient treatment services and other ancillary alcohol and/or other drug services. Services include, but are not limited to, assessment, counseling, crisis intervention, and activity therapies or education.

H0016 Alcohol and/or drug; medical/somatic (medical intervention in ambulatory setting) – means medical intervention including physical examinations and prescriptions or supervision of medication to address the physical health needs of the alcohol and other drug addiction clients served. Medical service means the same as medical somatic service. This service does not include detoxification, rehabilitation, methadone administration or alcohol and other drug screening analysis.

H0020 Alcohol and/or drug services; methadone administration and/or service (provisions of the drug by a licensed program) – means the provision of methadone by an alcohol and/or other drug program certified by the U.S. DHHS/SAMHSA/CSAT to conduct a methadone program.

H0021 Alcohol and/or drug training service (for staff and personnel not employed by providers) – (non-prevention training) means developing alcohol and/or drug service skills of staff and of persons not employed by the provider (e.g. counselor/clinician training on counseling techniques and approaches, sessions for clinicians on the effect of various types of drugs).

H0022 Alcohol and/or drug intervention service (planned facilitation) – means any planned facilitation that may assist a person to abstain from the use of alcohol, illicit drugs and the misuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

H0026 Alcohol and/or drug prevention process service, community-based (delivery of services to develop skills of impactors) – This community-based process focuses on enhancing the ability of the community to provide prevention services and includes such activities as organizing, planning, interagency collaboration, coalition building and networking. Also included under this strategy are community and volunteer training, systemic planning, multi-agency coordination and collaboration, funding procurement and community team building.

H0027 Alcohol and/or drug prevention environmental service (broad range of external activities geared toward modifying systems in order to mainstream prevention through policy and law) - Environmental strategies are a broad range of activities geared toward modifying systems in order to mainstream prevention through policy and law. The environmental strategy establishes or changes written and unwritten community standards, codes and attitudes, thereby influencing incidence and prevalence of alcohol and other drug use/abuse in the general population. This includes review of school policies, technical assistance to communities, modification of advertising practices, product pricing strategies, minimum purchase age interventions, restrictions on use, workplace substance abuse policies, changing environmental codes, ordinances, regulations and legislation and compliance checks.

H0028 Alcohol and/or drug prevention problem identification and referral service (e.g. student assistance and employee assistance programs), does not include assessment - Problem identification and referral is a strategy that refers to prevention/intervention services that target selected and indicated populations to address the earliest indications of an alcohol and/or other drug problem, or whenever a person or group can be identified “at risk” for developing a problem as well as individuals experiencing a problem behavior, to prevent the progression of the problem. This strategy does not include clinical assessment for treatment. It does include employee assistance programs, student assistance programs, screening and referral, intervention educational services, and support groups.

H0029 Alcohol and/or drug prevention alternatives service (services for populations that exclude alcohol and other drug use e.g. alcohol free social events) – Alternative services focus on providing opportunities for recognition and organized leisure activities that exclude alcohol and other drug use as a means of halting or reducing risk taking behavior, and include a wide range of social, recreational, cultural and community service activities that appeal to youth and adults. Alternative programs include alcohol/tobacco/drug free social/recreational events, community drop in centers,

community services, and youth/adult leadership functions and activities relating to athletics, art, music, and movies.

H0047 Alcohol and/or other drug abuse services, not otherwise specified – means services provided for the treatment of substance use disorders that are not coded elsewhere.

H0048 Alcohol and/or other drug testing: collection and handling only, specimens other than blood – is defined as the collection and handling of hair, saliva, urine, or other specimens other than blood for the purposes of analysis for the presence of alcohol and/or other drugs, and does not include the laboratory analysis of such specimens.

H0049 Alcohol and/or Drug Screening – is a quick process designed to identify an individual who has an alcohol and/or drug use problem or is at risk for developing one by evaluating responses to questions about alcohol and/or other drug use. A valid brief questionnaire about the context, frequency, and amount of alcohol and/or other drug use can be used to examine substance use patterns. Examples of valid questionnaires are the AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test), MAST (Michigan Alcohol Screening Test), DAST (Drug Abuse Screening Test), and ASSIST (Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test). A positive screen results in a recommendation for a brief intervention for individuals with an alcohol and/or drug use problem or at risk of developing one, or a referral to a substance abuse treatment program for individuals with severe alcohol and/or other drug abuse and dependence.

H0050 Alcohol and/or Drug Service, Brief Intervention, per 15 minutes - is a brief one-on-one session in which concerns about an individual's alcohol and/or other drug use are expressed, and advice to cut down or moderate an individual's behavior is given. The intervention usually follows immediately after an individual receives a positive screen indicating that an alcohol and/or drug use problem is present or there is a risk for developing one. Feedback is given on alcohol and/or other drug use patterns. The intervention focuses on increasing motivation for behavior change to reduce harmful levels of alcohol/and or other drugs. Intervention strategies include education, simple advice, brief counseling, continued monitoring, or referral to a substance abuse treatment specialist.

H2034 Alcohol and/or drug abuse halfway house services, per diem – is a service for clients who are receiving treatment for substance use disorders and in transition from more to less intensive levels of care. Professional supervision and oversight is provided per diem. This is not a residential primary treatment service, does not apply to hospital inpatient programs, and does not include room and board.

H2035 Alcohol and/or drug treatment program, per hour – is an hour of outpatient alcohol/or other drug treatment service in which the client participates in accordance with an approved individualized treatment plan that includes culturally relevant activities, as appropriate. It may include assessment, individual and group counseling, occupational therapy, activity therapies, expressive therapies (art, drama poetry, music, and movements), referral and information, drug screening urinalysis, medication administration, medical services, case management services, and nutrition counseling.

H2036 Alcohol and/or drug treatment program, per diem - is a day of outpatient alcohol/or other drug treatment service in which the client participates in accordance with an approved individualized treatment plan that includes culturally relevant activities, as appropriate. It may include assessment, individual and group counseling, occupational therapy, activity therapies, expressive therapies (art, drama poetry, music, and movements), referral and information, drug screening urinalysis, medication administration, medical services, case management services, and nutrition counseling.

T1006 Alcohol and/or substance abuse services, family/couple counseling – means alcohol and/or drug counseling for a client’s family members or significant others, to address family and relationship issues related to substance use disorders with a goal of promoting the recovery from addiction. In some instances, the client may not be present during these sessions.

T1007 Alcohol and/or substance abuse services, treatment plan development and/or modification – means design or modification of the treatment or service plan for substance use disorders. This may be the initial plan for a client beginning treatment or the modification of a plan for a client already in treatment. It is typically a scheduled service not necessarily delivered in conjunction with other treatment. This service may require the participation of clinicians and specialists in addition to those usually providing treatment.

T1009 Child sitting services for the children of the individual receiving alcohol and/or substance abuse services – means care of the children of clients undergoing treatment for substance use disorders while in treatment.

T1010 Meals for individuals receiving alcohol and/or substance abuse services (when meals are not included in the program) – means meals for clients participating in alcohol and/or other drug treatment when meals are not included in the program.

T1012 Alcohol and/or substance abuse services, skills development – means activities to develop client community integration and independent living skills. Services may be

provided in individual or group settings but not necessarily at scheduled events, and may be offered in the context of other normal activities, such as education or employment.

T1013 Sign language or oral interpreter for alcohol and/or substance abuse services – means a service to assure the treatment for substance use disorders is made accessible for clients who require sign language or oral interpretation, including but limited to those services required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROCEDURE CODES (CMS modified AOD codes to behavioral health codes)

H0002 Behavioral health screening to determine eligibility for admission to treatment program – means the process used to determine the appropriateness and eligibility of a client for admission to a particular alcohol and/or other drug program or a mental health program.

H0004 Behavioral health counseling and therapy, per 15 min. – means the utilization of special skills by a clinician, per 15 min., to assist individuals and/or their families/significant others in achieving substance abuse or mental health treatment objectives. Substance abuse treatment objectives can be achieved through the exploration of alcohol and other drug problems and/or addiction and their ramifications, including an examination of attitudes and feelings, consideration of alternative solutions and decision making, and/or discussing didactic materials with regard to substance use disorders. Mental health treatment objectives can be achieved through the provision of counseling in any of its forms. It may be provided in a variety of sites, by a wide range of mental health professionals, and in different modes or formats for clients.

H0017 Behavioral health; residential (hospital residential treatment program), without room and board, per diem – means 24-hour per day hospital facility (licensed by the State Hospital Authority) without room and board, and a level of care where a planned program of professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment for the restoration of functioning for persons with substance use disorders or mental health disorders occurs. Length of stay is typically 30 days or less.

H0018 Behavioral health; short-term residential (non hospital residential treatment program), without room and board, per diem – means 24-hour per day non-acute care in a non-hospital, residential treatment program without room and board, and a level of care where a planned program of professionally directed evaluation, care and treatment for the restoration of functioning for persons with substance use disorders or mental health disorders occurs. Length of stay is typically 30 days or less.

H0019 Behavioral health; long term residential (non-medical, non-acute care in a residential treatment program where stay is typically longer than 30 days), without room and board, per diem - means 24-hour per day, non-medical, non-acute care in a residential treatment facility, without room and board that provides support, typically for more than thirty days for persons with substance use disorders or mental health disorders. A long-term residential facility may include quarter-way house, halfway house, and recovery home, transitional residential, secondary treatment, etc.

H0023 Behavioral Health outreach service (planned approach to reach a targeted population) – means a planned approach to reach a target population in its own environment. The purpose of this approach is to prevent and/or address issues and problems as they relate to substance use disorders or mental health disorders.

H0024 Behavioral health prevention information dissemination service (one-way direct or non-direct contact with service audiences to affect knowledge and attitude) – Behavioral health prevention information dissemination service focuses on building awareness and knowledge of the nature and extent of substance use disorders and the effects on individuals, families and communities, as well as dissemination of information about prevention programs and resources. This service may also focus on mental illness, gambling, and tobacco use. The strategy is characterized by one-way communication from source to audience, with limited contact between the two. Examples include clearinghouse/ information resource center, health fairs, health promotions, original materials development and material dissemination audio/visual, printed, curricula, newsletter, public service announcement, resource directory), media campaigns, speaking engagements, special events and telephone information lines.

H0025 Behavioral health prevention education service (delivery of services with target population to affect knowledge, attitude, and/or behavior) –Behavioral health prevention education service is the delivery of services to target audiences with the intent of affecting knowledge, attitude and/or behavior. Education involves two-way communication and is distinguished from information dissemination by the fact that interaction between educator/facilitator and participants is the basis of the activities. Activities affect critical life and social skills including decision making, refusal skills, critical analysis and systematic judgment abilities. This includes: services to children of persons with substance use disorders, classroom educational activities, education services for youth, parenting/family management services, peer leader/helper programs, and small group sessions.

H0030 Behavioral Health hotline service – means a program’s 24-hour per day, seven-day per week capability to respond to telephone calls made to a program for assistance in a crisis that is related to substance use disorders or mental health disorders. The caller may or may not be a client of the program, and may choose to remain anonymous.

H2012 Behavioral health day treatment, per hour – means day treatment, per hour, group activities that are regularly scheduled for multiple sessions throughout the week according to an individualized alcohol and/or other drug treatment and/or mental health treatment plan. Services may include a range of discrete outpatient services that are not high intensity and other ancillary services. Activities are designed to assist clients with the maintenance and the development of functioning capacity in a therapeutic social context. This context is larger than that for group counseling and has greater variety in structure and clinical objectives.

H2037 Developmental delay, prevention activities, dependent child of client, per 15 min. – Services designed to foster the development of the children of clients receiving treatment while the client is in treatment, in 15-minute units, including, but not limited to, the children’s psychological, emotional, social and intellectual development.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MODIFIER CODES (related to substance abuse)

HA Child /adolescent program – to designate services for children and/or adolescents. Specific age boundaries are not specified to allow for variation in States.

HB Adult program, non-geriatric – to designate services designed for non-geriatric adults. Specific age boundaries are not specified to allow for variation in States.

HC Adult program, geriatric – to designate services designed for geriatric adults. Specific age boundaries are not specified to allow for variation in States.

HD Pregnant/parenting women’s program – to designate a service provided in a program that treats pregnant women or women with dependent children as a unit in a comprehensive treatment setting.

HE Mental health program – to designate that a service is associated with a program specifically designed to provide mental health services.

HF Substance abuse program – to designate that a service is associated with a program specifically designed to provide substance abuse services.

HG Opioid addiction treatment program – to designate that a service is associated with a program specifically designed to provide opioid-treatment services, including, but not limited to the provision of methadone.

HH Integrated mental health/substance abuse program – to designate that a service is associated with a program specifically designed to provide integrated services to persons who need both mental health and substance abuse services, as planned in an individualized integrated treatment plan.

HJ Employee assistance program – to designate that a service is associated with an employee assistance program.

HL Intern – The provider is a social work intern, psychologist intern, counselor intern, marriage and family intern, or other intern with a suitable background. Interns are reimbursed at different rates than the supervising provider under whose credential claims are submitted.

HM Less than Bachelor's degree level – The provider does not hold a Bachelor's degree.

HN Bachelor's degree level – The highest academic degree attained by the provider is a Bachelor's degree.

HO Master's degree level – The highest academic degree attained by the provider is a Master's degree.

HP Doctoral level – The highest educational degree attained by the provider is a doctoral degree (e.g. Ph.D., Psy.D, Ed.D, or DSW).

HQ Group setting – to designate services provided to more than one client during a single treatment event, such that clients have no particular relationship.

HR Family/couple with client present – to designate services provided to more than one client during a single treatment event, such that the persons served share familial or significant other relationships.

HS Family/couple without client present – to designate services provided to multiple persons during a single treatment in which some of the persons being served share a familial or family-like relationship, and the client is not present.

H9 Court-ordered – to indicate that the service was ordered by a court, a probation officer, and/or a parole officer.