



Provider Notice

From: Magellan Healthcare

Subject: Updated Magellan Care Guidelines take effect Nov. 14, 2026

Attention: Updated Magellan Care Guidelines for Idaho Behavioral Health Plan (IBHP)

Overview

The updated [2026-2027 Magellan Care Guidelines \(MCG\) for the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan \(IBHP\)](#) will take effect Nov. 14, 2026. The updated guidelines include:

- Magellan Healthcare Guidelines for IBHP
- MCG Behavioral Health Care Guidelines developed by MCG Health
- The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria

The ASAM Criteria, 3rd Edition, will remain in use until the ASAM Criteria, 4th Edition, is implemented.

These guidelines can be found on [Magellanofidaho.com](https://magellanofidaho.com) on the [For Providers](#) page under [Clinical Guidelines](#). From there, click the [Medical Necessity Criteria](#) link.

Summary of changes

1. Medical necessity definition

- Added language clarifying that services must meet applicable department criteria and that services not meeting criteria require prior authorization
- Updated the applicable Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) reference to IDAPA 16.03.26.006.15

2. Guideline organization

- Removed Behavioral Modification and Consultation from the Magellan Healthcare Guidelines for IBHP
- Moved Skills-Building/Community-Based Rehabilitative Services to the MCG Behavioral Health Care Guidelines used for IBHP

3. The ASAM Criteria

- Updated the section to clarify that the ASAM Criteria, 3rd Edition, remain in use until the ASAM Criteria, 4th Edition, is implemented

4. **Neuropsychological and psychological testing**

- Clarified that trained technicians who are directly supervised by an eligible provider may administer, but not interpret, tests
- Added the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ)-9 and Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)-7 as examples of screening tools excluded when testing consists only of self-administered or self-scored inventories or cognitive screening tests

5. **Parenting with Love and Limits®**

- Updated admission criteria to clarify that an individual must meet, or be at risk for, one of the listed conditions

6. **References and bibliography**

- Updated legal, regulatory, and clinical references for Adult Safe and Sober Housing, the Early Serious Mental Illness (ESMI) Idaho Star Program, Homes for Adult Rehabilitation Treatment and HART Specialized 1:1

All other clinical guidelines currently in use for IBHP, including MCG modified guidelines and IBHP clinical guidelines, were approved for 2026-2027.

Questions

Please contact Magellan Provider Services at IdahoProvider@MagellanHealth.com.