

Mojave Crest Assurance Company
Medical Policy MP-247

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT CRITERIA

Version 2.2

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

Supersedes: Version 2.1 (Effective January 1, 2023)

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy establishes the medical necessity criteria for substance use disorder (SUD)

treatment services under Vista Access PPO plans.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT LEVEL OF CARE CRITERIA

Residential substance use disorder treatment is medically necessary when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1. DIAGNOSIS

The member has a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder (DSM-5 criteria).

2. SEVERITY CRITERIA

The member demonstrates significant impairment requiring 24-hour structured treatment.

3. STEP THERAPY REQUIREMENT

The member has attempted and failed at outpatient or intensive outpatient treatment.

4. TREATMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The treatment plan must include specific, measurable treatment goals.

5. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

The facility must be licensed and accredited.

STEP THERAPY PROTOCOL

Standard progression: Outpatient → IOP → Residential

Exceptions may be made for medical necessity or safety concerns.

Document Control

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