

## [ASAM Patient Placement Criteria](#) [1]

**Description:** The ASAM Patient Placement Criteria for the Treatment of Substance-Related Disorders, Second Edition-Revised (Mee-Lee et al. 2001) lists the 5 basic levels of care available for adult substance users. These levels of care range from Early Intervention (for at-risk individuals) to Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Treatment (for patients with severe disorders who require around-the-clock care). The Patient Placement Criteria classifies opioid maintenance therapy as a Level I treatment since it is most often conducted in outpatient settings.

According to the **Patient Placement Criteria**, the following 6 patient dimensions should be considered when formulating a treatment plan (Mee-Lee et al. 2001):

Dimension	Things to Consider
<b>Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential</b>	Assess whether the patient is currently intoxicated, is at risk of precipitated withdrawal, or is currently in withdrawal.
<b>Biomedical Conditions and Complications</b>	Consider the patient's existing medical conditions and/or illnesses and how they might affect treatment.
<b>Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications</b>	Note the patient's psychiatric illnesses and psychological, behavioral, emotional, or cognitive problems, and determine if they are related to or are independent of the substance use disorder.
<b>Readiness to Change</b>	Assess the patient's readiness to change, and determine how willing he/she is to begin treatment.
<b>Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problem Potential</b>	Try to ascertain what the outcome will be if treatment is not successful, and consider if the patient can combat cravings and cues that might lead to relapse.
<b>Recovery/Living Environment</b>	Determine if the patient's home and work environments contribute to or detract from treatment efforts and what family and social support is available.

### References:

A more thorough explanation of the Patient Placement Criteria is available in the following

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sources:

Mee-Lee D, Schulman, GD, Fishman M, Gastfriend DR, Griffith JH, eds. *ASAM Patient Placement Criteria for the Treatment of Substance-Related Disorders, Second Edition-Revised (ASAM-PPC-2R)*. Chevy Chase, Md: American Society of Addiction Medicine Inc; 2001.

Mee-Lee D, Schulman GD. The ASAM Placement Criteria and matching patients to treatment. In: Graham AW, Schultz TK, Mayo-Smith MF, Ries RK, Wilford BB, eds. *Principles of Addiction Medicine, Third Edition*. Chevy Chase, Md: American Society of Addiction Medicine Inc; 2003:453-465.

### **Links:**

[1] <http://local.buppractice.com/node/1372>