

California Senate Bill 855

Effective Jan. 1, 2021



Watch for more information by mail about Magellan’s operational changes in relation to SB 855 that could affect how you contact, request services or otherwise interact with Magellan.

Key points for Magellan providers

1. This new law applies to all California regulated health plans, including California regulated Employee Assistance Programs.
2. Plans must provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders (MH/SUD) listed in the mental and behavioral disorders chapter of the most recent edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) or Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).
3. All healthcare services plans (e.g., Magellan) must apply specific clinical criteria and guidelines when conducting utilization review.
4. Magellan will utilize guidelines set forth in the most recent version of treatment criteria developed by the nonprofit professional association for the relevant clinical specialty. (Refer to the grid below.)
5. Requests for services will be evaluated for medical necessity based on the prescribed guidelines.

Clinical Specialty	Nonprofit Professional Association	Criteria or Guidelines + Version	Link to education / training program
Substance Use Disorders, Any Age	American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)	ASAM 3 rd Edition, 2013	https://www.asam.org/education/live-online-cme/the-asam-criteria-course
Mental Health Disorders, Patients Age 18 and Older	American Association of Community Psychiatrists	Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) 20, 2020	https://www.communitypsychiatry.org/resources/locus https://www.communitypsychiatry.org/resources/locus/schedule-your-locus-locus-training

Mental Health Disorders, Patients Age 6 to 17	American Association of Community Psychiatrists or American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS) 20 Or Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII), 2019	https://www.communitypsychiatry.org/resources/locus https://www.communitypsychiatry.org/resources/locus/schedule-your-locuscalocus-training
Mental Health Disorders, Patients Age 0 to 5	American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ESCI)	https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Member_Resources/Practice_Information/ECSII.aspx

In California, Magellan does business as Human Affairs International of California and Magellan Health Services of California, Inc. - Employer Services.