

Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Confidentiality Guidelines for Information Sharing in Accordance with 4 Pa. Code § 255.5

ASAM/PCPC Dimensions	Issues/Examples	Permitted Response	NOT Permitted		
1. Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential	Signs of intoxication	State "patient is exhibiting signs of intoxication".	Do not give specific vital signs or symptoms.		
	Symptoms of withdrawal	State "patient is exhibiting acute symptoms of withdrawal". <i>or</i> State "acute symptoms are absent". <i>or</i> State "symptoms of PAWS" <i>or</i> State the range of CINA/COWS scores e.g. over 10.	Do not give specific symptoms or specific vital signs.		
		Drug screen results		State "patient has relapsed".	Do not reference the drug screen or specific drug.
		Length of sobriety		State patient has had "limited relapse" or "significant relapse".	Do not give specific timeframes.
		Last use of chemical			Can't discuss this.
	Diagnosis	State specific diagnosis. May include specific drug or alcohol reference, for example "heroin use disorder, mild/moderate/severe" or "alcohol use disorder mild/moderate/severe".	Do not give additional information outside of diagnosis code.		
	2. Biomedical Conditions and Complications	Current physical illnesses which may complicate treatment	State specific diagnosis.	Do not give specific details about symptoms, etc.	
Chronic medical conditions that affect treatment		State specific diagnosis.	Do not give specific details about symptoms, etc.		

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2. Biomedical Conditions and Complications	E.g. Continued use of alcohol despite diagnosis of cirrhosis of liver	State "Patient has continued to use despite serious medical problems".	Do not give specific laboratory results, or mention alcohol as the problem causing substance.
	E.g. Continued use of cocaine despite history of cardiac problems	State "Patient has continued to use despite serious medical problems".	Do not give specific laboratory results or any drug specific information.
	Laboratory results	State laboratory tests results substantiate (or conflict with) patient's self-report of current medical condition.	Do not give specific laboratory results.
	Medications	May state that the patient is on medications. <i>or</i> May state compliance with medications.	Do not mention specific medications or even the general type of medication the patient is taking.
3. Emotional/Behavioral Conditions and Complications	Current psychiatric diagnosis	State specific psychiatric diagnosis.	Do not provide additional information.
	Current psychological, behavioral or emotional problems which need to be addressed in treatment	State specific psychiatric diagnosis or generic statements such as ACOA issues, anger issues.	Do not give details of symptoms or behaviors.
	Depression or other emotional/behavioral symptoms interfere with abstinence	Specific psychiatric diagnosis or generic statements such as ACOA issues, anger issues.	Do not give details of symptoms or behaviors or situations.
	Moderate risk of behaviors endangering self or others	State moderate risk of behaviors endangering self or others.	Do not describe behaviors.
	Patient experiencing suicidal thoughts	State patient is experiencing suicidal thoughts.	Do not describe behaviors.
	Patient has had a recent medication change and has not yet stabilized	State when the change took place, and the fact that the patient is not yet stabilized.	Do not mention the specific medication or even general types of medication.

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3. Emotional/Behavioral Conditions and Complications	Co-existing personality disorder e.g. antisocial personality disorder	State the diagnosis and the fact that limit setting is required.	Do not provide treatment plan details
	Shame, guilt or low self esteem	State "patient is experiencing shame, guilt or low self-esteem".	Do not state the specific situations that contributed to these problems
	Mood and affect	State lability or stability.	Do not give specific related behaviors
	Suicide attempts/gestures within the past two years	State Suicidal Behavior Disorder diagnosis.	Do not describe specific circumstances.
	Patient scheduled to see psychiatrist	State that an appointment has been made with the psychiatrist.	Do not disclose the specific purpose of the session.
	History of numerous psychiatric admissions	State the fact that the patient has had numerous psychiatric admissions.	Do not describe reasons for the admissions.
	Patient involved in abusive relationship	State patient is involved in an abusive relationship.	Do not give any specifics.
4. Treatment Acceptance/Resistance	External motivation by legal problems	State "Patient is externally motivated by legal problems".	Do not give specifics.
	Patient internally motivated for treatment	State patient internally motivated for treatment.	Do not give specifics.
	Despite serious medical condition related to his addiction, patient does not accept the severity of illness	State that despite a serious medical condition related to his addiction, patient does not accept the severity of illness.	Do not give specifics.
	Despite the loss of his job, home and family, as the direct result of his addiction, patient does not identify as an addict	State that despite the loss of his job, home and family, as the direct result of his addiction, patient does not identify as an addict.	Do not give specifics.
	Patient does not feel that he needs sponsor or home group	State patient does not feel that he needs a sponsor or home group.	Do not give specifics.
	Patient is still in denial	State patient is still in denial.	Do not give specifics.

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4. Treatment Acceptance/Resistance	Patient attends 3 meetings each week but still does not have a sponsor or home group	State patient attends 3 meetings each week but still does not have a sponsor or home group.	Do not state where the meetings occur or potential sponsor names.
	Patient acknowledges problem and accepts the need for treatment	State patient acknowledges problem and accepts the need for treatment.	Do not give specifics.
	Patient does not grasp the "disease concept"	State patient does not grasp the "disease concept".	Do not give specifics.
	Patient's drug screen came back positive	State patient has relapsed (if this instance of use can be considered relapse). or State patient is struggling to maintain abstinence.	Do not reference drug screen or drug type.
	Patient accepts the need to abstain from drug of choice, but feels he can still use other substances socially	State patient does not believe he/she needs to abstain from all chemical use.	Do not mention specific chemicals.
	Patient shows motivation for treatment but monopolizes the group and appears grandiose and overconfident	State patient shows motivation for treatment but monopolizes the group and appears grandiose and overconfident.	Do not provide any additional information.
5. Relapse/Continued Use Potential	Patient appears to be emotionally unstable, which may lead to relapse	State patient appears to be emotionally unstable, which may lead to relapse.	Do not give specifics of situations, or patient symptoms.
	Patient continues to place himself in situations where drugs and alcohol are present	State patient continues to place himself in situations where drugs and alcohol are present.	Do not give specifics of situations.
	Patient has no sober support outside of the treatment program	State patient has no sober support outside of the treatment program.	Do not state names of anyone else in treatment.

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5. Relapse/Continued Use Potential	Patient does not have skills necessary to interrupt the relapse process	State patient does not have the skills necessary to interrupt the relapse process.	Do not state the exact skills that he does not have.
	Patient beginning to connect with other recovering people and attending AA regularly	State patient is beginning to connect with other recovering people and is attending AA regularly.	Do not state names of recovering persons or the location of meetings.
	Patient struggling but has daily contact with sponsor	State patient is struggling but has daily contact with his sponsor.	Do not state the name of sponsor.
	Patient has had multiple rehab experiences but has never stayed sober for more than one month post treatment	State patient has had multiple rehab experiences but has never stayed sober for more than one month post treatment.	Do not give names of rehabs or date of attendance.
	High relapse potential due to lack of insight into relapse process	State high relapse potential due to lack of insight into the relapse process.	Do not provide any additional information.
	High relapse potential due to refusal to attend meetings or find sponsor	State high relapse potential due to refusal to attend meetings or find a sponsor.	Do not provide any additional information.
	Patient has not developed new ways of dealing with stress	State patient has not developed new ways of dealing with stress.	Do not provide any additional information.
	Patient does not know how to have fun without using drugs	State patient does not know how to have fun without using drugs	Do not provide any additional information.
	Patient rationalizes use and still feels he can control it	State patient rationalizes use and still feels he can control it.	Do not provide any additional information.
6. Recovery Environment	Patient lives with spouse who continues to use	State patient's home environment is not conducive to recovery.	Do not talk about specifics, e.g. "Spouse uses drugs."
	Patient has supportive wife and family	State patient has a supportive wife and family.	Do not talk about the recovery status of other family members.

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6. Recovery Environment	Patient lives alone and has few friends	State patient lives alone and has few friends.	Do not provide any additional information.
	Patient's family situation extremely chaotic and family members seem to be undermining efforts to change	State patient's family situation is extremely chaotic and family members seem to be undermining his efforts to change.	Do not provide any additional information.
	Patient in abusive relationship and needs to make other living arrangements	State patient is in an abusive relationship and needs to make other living arrangements.	Do not provide any additional information.
	Family involved in treatment	State family is involved in treatment.	Do not share treatment plan details involving family.
	Patient occupation and/or work environment may set him up for relapse, e.g. thinks that he can continue to tend bar and stay clean	State only general information like: job situation very stressful; work environment is not conducive to recovery.	Do not give specifics about who is using drugs at work.