

Standards of Practice

A standard of practice is defined as a definition of rules, regulations, and the boundaries within which a fully qualified practitioner with substantial and appropriate training, knowledge, and experience may practice in a field of medicine or surgery or other specifically defined field. Such practice is also governed by requirements for continuing education and professional accountability. The Model Scopes of Practice for Substance Use Disorder Counseling presented here is based on CSAT's Technical Assistance Publication (TAP), Addiction Counseling Competencies: The knowledge, skills, and attitudes of professional practice, known in the field as "TAP 21" and applying the "TAP 21" to Certification Standards & Other Addiction Treatment Workforce Improvement Initiative. The "TAP 21" has been cross walked with the domains and functions that are required by major certification and credentialing organizations and has been endorsed by these groups. By defining the scope of practice and career ladder for credential holders, this allows for clarity and consistency in the field of substance use services and to:

- Protect the public by setting standards.
- Put practice in line with higher education.
- Raise awareness of the profession; and
- Inform workforce development activities.

Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC)

A Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) has a 60-hour master's or other post graduate degree and is licensed to practice independently. The scope of practice for the LCADC can include:

1. Clinical evaluation, including screening, assessment, and diagnosis of substance use disorders (SUDs) and co-occurring disorders (CODs).
2. Treatment planning for SUDs and CODs, including initial, ongoing, continuity of care, discharge, and planning for relapse prevention.
3. Referral
4. Service coordination and case management in the areas of SUDs and CODs.
5. Counseling, therapy, trauma informed care, and psychoeducation with individuals, families, and groups in the areas of SUDs and CODs.
6. Client, family, and community education
7. Documentation
8. Professional and ethical Responsibilities
9. Clinical supervisory responsibilities for all categories of SUD Counselors

The LCADC can practice under the auspice of a licensed facility, or primary care setting, or as an independent private practitioner. It is the choice of the LADC to seek out clinical supervision and peer consultation.

Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor Associate (LCADCA)

The Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor Associate (LCADCA) has a 60-hour master's or other post graduate degree. These persons either have not attained their license, or the license is restricted to practice only under supervision of a board approved LCADC Supervisor. The LCADCA scope of practice can include:

1. Clinical evaluation, including screening, assessment, and diagnosis of substance use disorders (SUDs) and Co-Occurring Disorders (CODs)
2. Treatment Planning for SUDs and CODs, including initial, ongoing, continuity of care, discharge, and planning for relapse prevention.
3. Referral
4. Service Coordination and case management in the areas of SUDs and CODs Counseling, therapy, trauma informed care, and psychoeducation with individuals, families, and groups in the areas of SUDs and CODs
5. Client, Family, and Community Education
6. Documentation
7. Professional and Ethical Responsibilities
8. Clinical supervisory responsibilities for categories Levels 1 and 2 as well as Substance Use Disorder Technicians.

The LCADCA can only practice under the auspice of a licensed facility, or in primary care setting, **and** under clinical supervision of a LCADC.

Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC)

The Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor (LADC) – The Scope of Practice for the category of those with a 30-hour master's degree includes the following activities with clinical supervision of a board approved LCADC supervisor:

1. Clinical evaluation, including diagnostic impression and/or screening, assessment, and diagnosis of substance use disorders.
2. Treatment Planning for SUDs, including initial, ongoing, continuity of care, discharge, and planning for relapse prevention.
3. Referral
4. Service coordination and case management for SUDs
5. Counseling, therapy, trauma informed care, and psychoeducation with individuals, families, and groups
6. Client, family, and community education
7. Documentation
8. Professional and ethical responsibilities
9. Clinical supervisory responsibilities for all categories of SUD Counselors

The LADC can practice under the auspice of a licensed facility, or primary care setting, or as an independent private practitioner. It is the choice of the LADC to seek out clinical supervision and peer consultation.

Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)

The Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) – The Scope of Practice for the category of those with a bachelor’s degree/high school diploma/GED includes the following activities:

1. Clinical evaluation, including diagnostic impression or impression and/or screening, assessment, and diagnosis of substance use disorders.
2. Treatment planning for SUDs, including initial, ongoing, continuity of care, discharge, and planning for relapse prevention.
3. Referral
4. Service coordination and case management for SUDs
5. Counseling, therapy, trauma informed care, and psychoeducation with individuals, families, and groups
6. Client, family, and community education
7. Documentation
8. Professional and ethical responsibilities
9. Clinical supervisory responsibilities for all categories of SUD Counselors

The CADC can practice under the auspice of a licensed facility, or a primary care setting, or as an independent private practitioner. It is the choice of the CADC to seek out clinical supervision or peer consultation with a LCADC, LADC or CADC.

Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Associate I and II (CADC Associate I/II)

The Scope of Practice for the category of those with a high school diploma or the equivalent, or an associate degree include the following activities with **direct** clinical supervision from a board approved LCADC, LADC or CADC supervisor.

1. Screening.
2. Monitor treatment plan/compliance
3. Referral
4. Service Coordination and case management for SUD
5. Psycho-educational counseling of individuals and groups **co-lead** by a CADC, LADC, or LCADC
6. Client, family, and community education
7. Documentation
8. Professional and ethical responsibilities

The CADC Associate I and II can only practice under the auspice of a licensed facility or a primary care setting, and under the **direct** clinical and/or administrative supervision of an LCADC, LADC, or CADC.

Registered Peer Support Specialist

The Scope of practice for the category of Registered Peer Support Specialist for those who have a high school diploma or the equivalent and have at least one year of substance use recovery includes the following activities under the supervision of a board approved LCADC, LADC, or CADC supervisor.

1. Engages peers in collaborative relationships.
2. Provides support.
3. Shares lived experiences of recovery.
4. Personalizes peer support.
5. Identify recovery goals.
6. Supports recovery planning.
7. Links to resources, services, and supports.
8. Provides information about skills related to substance use and recovery.
9. Helps peers to manage crises.
10. Supports collaboration and teamwork.

The Registered Peer Support Specialist can only practice under the auspice of a licensed facility or primary care setting and under the supervision of a board approved LCADC, LADC, or CADC.