Applying for Levels of Care Certification
October 2022

This document outlines contents for a new Level of Care certification application. This document is an update from the original application instructions released in April 2018.

If you are looking to maintain certification, please complete separate instructions that were sent in the email to maintain certification.

If you are applying for a new Level of Care, please submit all the application components in a single PDF document with the following instructions:

- Standards US letter paper size (8.5" x 11")
- Font size that is 11 points are larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, or charts is generally acceptable as long as the text is legible when the page is viewed at 100%.
- Margins that at least measure at least 0.5 inch (top, bottom, and sides) on pages
- Please provide original supporting documents as well as new level supporting documents
  *previously submitted documentation is required

New applications should be sent to Charrica.Green@baltimorecity.gov and Brittney.Spencer@baltimorecity.gov Applications will be reviewed by a leadership team led by the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and Behavioral Health System Baltimore.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Charrica Green at Charrica.Green@baltimorecity.gov or Brittney Spencer at Brittney.Spencer@Baltimorecity.gov.

Levels of Care for Baltimore City Hospitals Responding to the Opioid Epidemic

Level of Care	Action
A **Level 3** hospital:	1) Screens emergency department patients for at-risk substance use and substance use disorder 2) Has an emergency department discharge protocol (as required by state law) that includes a referral to community-based treatment for patients with substance use disorder 3) Prescribes naloxone to emergency patients at high risk for opioid overdose 4) Maintains capacity to initiate treatment for opioid use disorder for emergency department patients 5) Promulgates guidelines for judicious prescribing of opioid analgesics across the hospital system 6) Provides information about safe storage and disposal to patients who are prescribed opioids
A **Level 2** hospital meets the criteria of Level 3 and:	7) Offers peer recovery specialist services or similar support services to emergency department patients 8) Screens directly admitted patients for at-risk substance use and substance use disorder 9) Prescribes naloxone to admitted patients at high risk for opioid overdose 10) Maintains capacity to initiate treatment for opioid use disorder for admitted patients 11) Monitors fidelity to prescribing guidelines and addresses cases of injudicious prescribing

*A **Level 1** hospital meets the criteria of Levels 3 and 2 and:*	12) Maintains capacity to initiate treatment for opioid use disorder for admitted patients with at least one formulation of each medication approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for that purpose 13) Offers peer recovery support services or similar support services to admitted patients 14) Dispenses naloxone to emergency department patients and admitted patients at high risk for opioid overdose 15) Screens patients in hospital campus outpatient clinics for at-risk substance use and substance use disorder 16) Offers ongoing treatment in appropriate hospital campus outpatient clinics, including clinics that do not specialize in the treatment of substance use disorder

Suggested Application Contents

1. Emergency Department Activities

Level	Activity / Protocol	Components
3	1) Screens ED patients for at-risk substance use and SUD	Screening tool / questions
		Screening administration protocol / guideline
		Description of intervention in response to positive screen (or declined screen)
	2) ED discharge protocol	ED discharge protocol (as per HOPE Act)
	3) Prescribes naloxone to ED patients	ED prescribing protocol OR description of prescribing practices
	4) Initiates treatment for ED patients	ED initiation protocol / guideline
		Number of patients initiated for MAT within past month
		Transition of care / facilitated referral protocol OR description of referral process
	5) Prescribing guidelines for opioid analgesics	Guidelines
		Mechanism for promulgation
	6) Education materials about storage & disposal to patients who are prescribed opioids	Text / image of materials
2	7) Offers peer or similar support services to ED patients	Scope of practice for support specialists
		Protocol for offering recovery support resources for ED patients OR description of recovery support practices
		Number of patients receiving recovery support services and types of recovery support services over the past month

Level	Activity / Protocol	Components
	11) Monitors fidelity to prescribing guidelines	Mechanism for monitoring
		Description of interventions available in cases of overprescribing
		Aggregate data about provider adherence to guidelines, stratified by practice setting
1	14) Dispenses naloxone to ED patients and admitted patients	Dispensing protocol / guideline OR description of dispensing practices
		Number of kits dispensed within the past month, stratified by insurance status of patients (if available)

2. Inpatient Activities

Level	Activity / Protocol	Components
3	5) Prescribing guidelines for opioid analgesics	Guidelines
		Mechanism for promulgation
	6) Education materials about storage & disposal to patients who are prescribed opioids	Text / image of materials
2	8) Screens directly admitted patients for at-risk substance use and SUD	Screening tool / questions
		Screening administration protocol / guideline
		Description of intervention in response to positive screen (or declined screen)
	9) Prescribes naloxone to admitted patients	Inpatient prescribing protocol OR description of prescribing practices
	10) Initiates treatment for admitted patients	Inpatient prescribing protocol / guideline
		Transition of care / facilitated referral protocol OR description of referral process
	11) Monitors fidelity to prescribing guidelines	Mechanism for monitoring

Level	Activity / Protocol	Components
		Description of interventions available in cases of overprescribing
		Aggregate data about provider adherence to guidelines, stratified by practice setting
1	12) Initiates treatment with any of three medications	Inpatient prescribing protocol / guideline
		Transition of care / facilitated referral protocol OR description of referral process
	13) Offers peer or similar support services to admitted patients	Scope of practice for support specialists
		Protocol for offering recovery support resources for ED patients OR description of recovery support practices
		Number of patients receiving recovery support services and types of recovery support services over the past month
	14) Dispenses naloxone to ED patients and admitted patients	Dispensing protocol / guideline OR description of dispensing practices
		Number of kits dispensed within the past month, stratified by insurance status of patients (if available)

3. Outpatient Activities

Level	Activity / Protocol	Components
1	15) Screens outpatients at-risk substance use and SUD	Screening tool / questions
		Screening administration protocol / guideline
		Description of intervention in response to positive screen (or declined screen)
	16) Offers ongoing treatment for outpatients	Medication protocol
		Psychosocial support services available
		Description of referral process (e.g., if patient needs different treatment setting)