



## **LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII**

### Messaging and FAQs

Aetna, a CVS Health company, is committed to delivering a simple and efficient provider experience by supporting common language and standards with which to make sound recommendations to patients.

Aetna is beginning to use the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) and the Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System/Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CALOCUS/CASII) for its medical necessity reviews. The change will be effective for behavioral health care for members in Commercial plans. Once implemented, they will replace the use of the Level of Care Assessment Tool (LOCAT) for behavioral health reviews.

#### **What are LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII?**

LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII can be used by health care systems to identify service gaps and help project resource needs for behavioral health. They were developed to promote a common language among all key stakeholders, including patients, providers, payers and the general public. This person-centered approach aims to find the best fit between individual needs and behavioral health services. LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII describe the array of services to best meet the needs of a population. This includes finding the most effective and efficient use of finite resources for individuals and systems.

#### **What is the effective date for Aetna's requirement to utilize LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII?**

Aetna will begin to utilize LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII for determining medical necessity for care. We plan to adopt the criteria in second quarter 2021.

#### **Who developed LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII?**

LOCUS was developed by the **American Association for Community Psychiatry** (AACCP) and CALOCUS was developed jointly by AACCP and **the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry** (AACAP).

#### **For which Aetna members will LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII be used?**

LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII will be used for Aetna members in Commercial plans. For members in Medicare Advantage plans, CMS criteria will continue to be used for all Organizational Determinations. In conjunction with Medicare guidelines, LOCUS will be used in all other cases.



## **Will LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII be used for substance use disorder/chemical dependency reviews?**

No. The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) treatment criteria for Addictive, Substance-Related, and Co-Occurring Conditions (Third Edition) will continue to be used for review of substance use disorders/chemical dependency, unless the use of other criteria is required by state law.

If a member is actively receiving care based on previous medical reviews using LOCAT, do providers need to reassess the member using LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII? We will begin to review all cases using LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII. We would not rereview a previous part of the episode of care, but reviews going forward using these criteria.

## **Is Aetna planning to change its process for medical necessity reviews?**

No, we don't anticipate a significant change in the medical necessity review process, although some change in the information we request may occur.

## **Where can I find more information about LOCUS and CALOCUS/CASII and related training?**

For more information about LOCUS , visit the [AACP website](#).

For information about CALOCUS/CASII, visit the [AACAP website](#).

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