



ASAM

The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASAM joins NIDAMED Coalition of Healthcare Organizations *Working together to prevent and address substance use in teens*

CHEVY CHASE, MD, December 16, 2014 – ASAM announces its participation in the newly formed [NIDAMED Coalition of Healthcare Organizations](#) which together with National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) will work to help increase clinician education on how best to address and prevent adolescent substance use (SU).

A staggering [1.2 million youths](#) aged 12 to 17 are not receiving necessary treatment for substance use disorders. To address this, the [NIDAMED Coalition of Healthcare Organizations](#) and NIDA will work together to develop a continuing medical education / continuing education (CME/CE) program that will prepare clinicians to address substance use with their adolescent patients and their parents.

The Coalition is comprised of experts in addiction research and clinical practice and six medical professional organizations, including:

- California Academy of Family Physicians
- American Society of Addiction Medicine
- American Osteopathic Association
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Physician Assistants

“This collaboration draws upon the knowledge of leading medical organizations, whose members are in the field every day working with young people,” said NIDA Director Dr. Nora D. Volkow. “Together we will bring the best science to clinical practice – helping clinicians use evidence-based tools with their adolescent patients to help prevent drug use and its related health consequences.”

“Because of the particular vulnerabilities of youth, we need to support and train adolescent and young adult health providers with developmentally informed approaches to substance use problems, including screening, assessment, treatment and engagement of youth and their families” says Marc Fishman, MD, ASAM’s Clinical Expert.

The Coalition is committed to working with NIDA in creating a program that is useful, usable, and promotes practice change. The CME/CE program will be launched in early 2016.

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The [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) is a national medical specialty society representing over 3,200 physicians and associated professionals. Its mission is to increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment, to educate physicians, and other health care providers and the public, to support research and prevention, to promote the appropriate role of the physician in the care of patients with addictive disorders, and to establish Addiction Medicine as a specialty recognized by professional organizations, governments, physicians, purchasers and consumers of health care services and the general public. ASAM was founded in 1954, and has had a seat in the American Medical Association House of Delegates since 1988.