

Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (IET)

By working together, we can improve health outcomes for your patients, our members. The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) helps us measure many aspects of performance. This tip sheet provides key details of the HEDIS measure for Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (IET).

What Is the Measure?

The measure is the percentage of new substance use disorder (SUD) episodes between November 15 of the year prior to the measurement year and November 14 of the measurement year that result in treatment initiation and engagement. Two rates are reported:

- **Initiation of SUD treatment.** The percentage of new SUD episodes resulting in treatment initiation through an inpatient SUD admission, outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter, partial hospitalization, telehealth visit, or medication treatment within 14 days
- **Engagement of SUD treatment.** The percentage of new SUD episodes that have evidence of treatment engagement within 34 days of initiation

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Diagnosis

- Alcohol use disorder
- Opioid use disorder
- Other substance use disorder

Event/Diagnosis

New episode of SUD – Any of the visit types below meets criteria with one of the following SUD diagnosis codes: Alcohol Abuse and Dependence, Opioid Abuse and Dependence, Other Drug Abuse and Dependence.

- An outpatient visit; a behavioral health (BH) outpatient visit
- An intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization
- A non-residential substance abuse treatment facility visit
- A community mental health center visit
- A telehealth visits
- A substance use disorder service
- A withdrawal management event
- An emergency department visit; an observation visit; an acute or nonacute inpatient discharge
- A telephone visit; an e-visit or virtual check-in
- An opioid treatment service

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Exclusions

- Hospice or using hospice services anytime during the measurement year
- Death anytime during the measurement year

Initiation and Engagement of SUD Treatment

Initiation of SUD Treatment Within 14 Days of the SUD Episode Date

<p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the SUD episode was an inpatient discharge, the inpatient stay is considered initiation of treatment. • If the SUD episode was an opioid treatment service that bills monthly, the opioid treatment service is considered initiation of treatment. • Initiation of treatment on the same day as the SUD episode date must be with different providers, except when the initiation is with medication treatment dispensing events and medication administration events. 	<p>At least one of the following occurs on the SUD episode date or during the 13 days after the SUD episode date (14 total days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An acute or nonacute inpatient admission • An outpatient visit; a BH outpatient visit • An intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization • A nonresidential substance abuse treatment facility visit • A community mental health center visit • A telehealth visit • A substance use disorder service • An observation visit • A telephone visit; e-visit or virtual check-in • A weekly or monthly opioid treatment service • For SUD episodes in the alcohol use disorder cohort, an alcohol use disorder medication treatment dispensing event or a medication administration event • For SUD episodes in the opioid use disorder cohort, an opioid use disorder medication treatment dispensing event or a medication administration event <p>Initiation on the same day as the SUD episode date must be with different providers. The exception to this is initiation with medication treatment dispensing events and medication administration events.</p>
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Engagement of SUD Treatment Within 34 Days of Initiation

If the initiation of SUD treatment was an inpatient admission, the 34-day period for engagement begins the day after discharge.

Notes:

- SUD episodes that had at least one weekly or monthly opioid treatment service with medication administration on the day after the initiation encounter through 34 days after the initiation event
- SUD episodes with long-acting SUD medication administration events on the day after the initiation encounter through 34 days after the initiation event:
 - For SUD episodes in the alcohol use disorder cohort, an alcohol use disorder medication treatment dispensing event or a medication administration event
 - For SUD episodes in the opioid use disorder cohort, an opioid use disorder medication treatment dispensing event or a medication administration event
- SUD episodes that are not compliant for initiation of SUD treatment are not compliant for engagement of SUD treatment.
- Two engagement visits may be on the same date of service, but they must be with different providers to count as two events.
- An engagement visit on the same date of service as an engagement medication treatment event meets criteria (there is no requirement that they be with different providers).

Engagement Visit

SUD episodes with at least two of the following (any combination) on the day after the initiation encounter through 34 days after the initiation event:

- Engagement visit
- Engagement medication treatment event

Visit Type with SUD Episodes

Any visit type below meets criteria *with* one of the following codes: Alcohol Abuse and Dependence, Opioid Abuse and Dependence, Other Drug Abuse and Dependence.

Inpatient:

- Acute or nonacute admission
- Partial hospitalization

Outpatient:

- Behavioral Health outpatient visit
 - Intensive outpatient encounter
 - Community mental health center
 - Substance use disorder service
 - Observation visit
 - Telephone visit; e-visit/virtual check-in
 - Opioid treatment for OUD weekly non-drug service

Engagement Medication Treatment

- For SUD episodes in the alcohol use disorder cohort, an alcohol use disorder medication treatment dispensing event or a medication administration event
- For SUD episodes in the opioid use disorder cohort, an opioid use disorder medication treatment dispensing event or a medication administration event.

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Medications

Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment Medications

Description	Prescription
Aldehyde dehydrogenase inhibitor	Disulfiram (oral)
Antagonist	Naltrexone (oral and injectable)
Other	Acamprosate (oral and delayed-release tablet)

Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Medications

Description	Prescription
Antagonist	• Naltrexone (oral)
Antagonist	• Naltrexone (injectable)
Partial agonist	• Buprenorphine (sublingual tablet)
Partial agonist	• Buprenorphine (injection)
Partial agonist	• Buprenorphine (implant)
Partial agonist	• Buprenorphine/naloxone (sublingual tablet, buccal film, sublingual film)

Methadone is not included on the medication lists for this measure.

Best Practices

1. Make sure the member has an appointment scheduled within 14 days and two engagement visits or medication treatment events within 34 days of the SUD diagnosis.
2. Engage parents/guardian/family/support system and/or significant others in the treatment plan. Advise them about the importance of treatment and attending appointments.
3. Care should be coordinated between providers and begin when the SUD diagnosis is made. Encourage communication between the behavioral health providers and PCP.
4. Use Lucet, a New Directions company, Behavioral Health Network and Case Management services as needed.
 - **Lucet Behavioral Health member services:** Members can call **1-866-287-9569** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET, for help coordinating care or locating a BH professional.
 - **Lucet Behavioral Health Physician and Case Management services:** Providers can call Lucet Case Management for help locating a BH professional or coordinating care for a patient. Call **1-866-350-2280** Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. ET.
5. **Florida Blue member services:** Use phone number on the back of the member ID card

References:

- [NIMH.NIH.gov/Health/Publications/Depression/](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/depression/)
- [Depression-PrimaryCare.org/Clinicians/Toolkits/Materials/Forms/phq9/](https://www.depression-primarycare.org/Clinicians/Toolkits/Materials/Forms/phq9/)

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