

# 2022 HEDIS Measure Tips



One in a series of tip sheets that look at key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures, commonly referred to as HEDIS® measures.

## Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (IET)

Effectiveness of Care HEDIS® Measure

### HEDIS measure description

The percentage of new substance use disorder (SUD) episodes that result in treatment initiation and engagement.

### Measure population (denominator)

Members age 13 and older as of the SUD episode date, that had a new episode of SUD on November 15th of the year prior through November 14th of the measurement year.

**Note:** members may be in the denominator more than once.

### Measure compliance (numerator)

Members who received both of the following:

**1. Initiation of SUD treatment:** occurs within 14 days of the SUD episode

**Note:** for all initiation events except medication treatment, initiation on the same date of service as the diagnosis must be with different providers to count for compliance.

**2. Engagement of SUD treatment:** occurs within 34 days of initiation

**Note:** two engagement visits may be on the same date of service, but they must be with different providers to count as two events.

### Did you know?

- Stress can contribute to increased substance abuse.
- Social distancing guidance and stay-at-home orders may lead to higher numbers of people using substances alone, without others around to administer naloxone, perform life-saving measures, or call for help in case of overdose.

This measure applies to both commercial and Medicare members.

*continued*

Both Initiation and Engagement visits may be met in one of the following ways:

- Inpatient admission
- Outpatient visit
- Intensive outpatient or partial hospitalization
- Non-residential substance abuse treatment facility
- Community mental health center visit
- Telehealth visit, telephone, e-visit or virtual check-in
- Substance use disorder service
- Observation visit
- Medication treatment services
  - Members who initiated treatment with medication require two or more engagement events (only one can be medication treatment).

### Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment Medications

Description	Prescriptions
Aldehyde dehydrogenase inhibitor	Disulfiram (oral)
Antagonist	Naltrexone (oral and injectable)
Other	Acamprosate (oral)

### Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Medications

Description	Oral	Injection	Implant
Antagonist	Naltrexone	Naltrexone	
Partial agonist	Buprenorphine Buprenorphine/naloxone	Buprenorphine	Buprenorphine

## Exclusions

- Members in hospice or using hospice services anytime during the measurement year
- Members deceased during measurement year
- Methadone for opioid use disorder

## Helpful HEDIS\* hints

- **Screen** and determine risk level. Ask about the patient’s past and current substance use. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism offers a pocket screening guide at [niaaa.nih.gov/sites/default/files/publications/YouthGuidePocket.pdf](https://niaaa.nih.gov/sites/default/files/publications/YouthGuidePocket.pdf).
- **Educate** the patient on the warning signs of addiction and risks of continued behavior. Stress the importance of ongoing treatment. Develop a plan in accordance with the patient’s willingness to participate.
- **Distribute** a list of specialists or treatment facilities for substance abuse and dependence.
- **Emphasize** the importance of a follow up visit for treatment within 14 days of diagnosis and two additional treatment related services within 34 days of diagnosis.
- **Provide** the National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Referral Routing Service (800) 662-HELP.

## Tips for coding

- When treating patients for issues related to an alcohol or other drug-dependence diagnosis, code for the diagnosis on every claim.
- Telehealth visits meet criteria with acceptable coding for both initiation and engagement

## Resources

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021. "Alcohol and Substance Use"  
[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/stress-coping/alcohol-use.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/stress-coping/alcohol-use.html)

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