

# HEDIS® Tip Sheet

## Follow Up After Emergency Department Visit for Substance Use (FUA)



CarePartners of Connecticut's HEDIS Tip Sheets offer insights into specific HEDIS measures. These best practices and tips can optimize HEDIS scores and identify opportunities to improve patient care.

The FUA measure assesses emergency department (ED) visits among members 13 years and older with a principal diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD) or any diagnosis of drug overdose for which there was follow up. Two rates are reported:

- The percentage of ED visits for which the member received follow up within 30 days of the ED visit (31 total days)
- The percentage of ED visits for which the member received follow up within 7 days of the ED visit (8 total days)



### Follow-Up Care

- Follow up may include an outpatient visit, intensive outpatient visit, partial hospitalization, telehealth, telephone visit, or pharmacotherapy dispensing appointment (methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone).
- If follow-up care occurs with a behavioral health provider, no diagnostic information is required.
- If follow-up care is not with a behavioral health provider, a diagnosis of SUD, substance use, or drug overdose is required.



### Provider Best Practices

- **Talk** to the patient about the importance of seeking follow-up care within 7 days of discharge.
- **Emphasize** the importance of consistency and adherence to medication-assisted therapies, if appropriate.
- **Encourage** patients to include primary care, behavioral health care, and support systems in treatment planning.
- **Identify and address** any barriers to the patient attending appointments.
- **Provide** reminder calls to confirm appointments and reach out within 24 hours to patients who cancel appointments to reschedule as soon as possible.
- **Submit** claims and encounter data in a timely manner and ensure accurate and complete coding.

### Behavioral Health Providers include:



- Psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Psychiatric Physician Assistant
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

### Did you know?



Recent [National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics \(NCDS\)](#) show that substance use disorder (SUD) affects more than **20 million** Americans aged 12 and over.

Among the **15 million** Americans with alcohol use disorder (AUD), **less than 8%** receive treatment.