

HEDIS® Tip Sheet

Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (IET)

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



The IET measure assesses the percentage of new substance use disorder (SUD) episodes that result in treatment initiation and engagement. Two rates are reported:

1. **Initiation of SUD Treatment:** the percentage of new SUD episodes that result in treatment initiation through an inpatient SUD admission, outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter, partial hospitalization, telehealth visit, or medication treatment within 14 days.
2. **Engagement of SUD Treatment:** the percentage of new SUD episodes that have evidence of treatment engagement within 34 days of initiation.



Provider Best Practices and Measure Tips

- **Ensure** accurate and timely submission of claims and encounter data with the correct billing codes to streamline the reimbursement process and prevent payment delays.
 - For patients using long-term medication for pain, **use code Z79.891** (long-term current use of opiate analgesic), which does not denote an SUD.
 - **Use a "1"** at the end of an SUD diagnosis code to document that the condition is in remission, e.g., F10.11, (alcohol use disorder, mild, in early or sustained remission).
- Proactively **arrange** a follow-up visit (telehealth or in-person) before the patient leaves the office or inpatient facility.
- **Facilitate** appointments for timely follow-up care.
 - If not treating the patient directly, **refer** the patient to a behavioral health provider within 14 days of a new SUD episode and for two additional visits within 34 days of the initial visit with the behavioral health provider.
 - **Maintain** appointment availability for patients with a recent SUD diagnosis, complete reminder calls to confirm patient appointments, and reach out to reschedule canceled appointments within 24 hours.
- **Address** barriers to receiving care that patients might encounter. Involve the patient's already-identified supports, or identify supports to assist with aftercare services when appropriate.
- **Provide** patients with educational materials on SUD diagnosis and the importance of treatment adherence, as well as available options and resources for outpatient treatment, crisis treatment, and Peer Recovery Supports.

Did you know?



- According to the 2023 United States National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), **48.5 million (16.7%) Americans** aged 12 and older were **diagnosed with a substance use disorder** in the past year.
- Only about **23% of those** with an SUD **receive treatment**.
- Individuals with SUD are at **increased risk** of overdose, injury, soft tissue infections, and mortality.
- In addition to **improving health**, SUD treatment has been shown to **boost productivity, enhance social outcomes, and reduce health care costs**.



Additional Resources

Find additional information and treatment resources at the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) websites.