

Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (IET)

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 IET measure assesses adults and adolescents 13 years and older with a new episode of substance use disorder (SUD) who received the following:

- **Initiation of SUD Treatment:** Adolescents and adults who initiated treatment through an inpatient SUD admission, outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization, telehealth, or medication-assisted treatment (MAT) within 14 days of diagnosis.
- **Engagement of SUD Treatment:** Adolescents and adults who initiated treatment and had two or more additional SUD services or MAT within 34 days of the initiation visit.



Follow Up Care

Follow-up may include an outpatient visit, intensive outpatient visit, or partial hospital visit.*



Screening is Key

Early identification of substance use disorder issues can help members avoid future drug-related illnesses and deaths, improving quality of life. When a substance use disorder concern is identified, the member/caregiver is encouraged to ensure appropriate follow-up treatment with a Behavioral Health Specialist is scheduled.

The SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) tool aids in the delivery of early intervention and treatment services.



Provider Best Practices

- Screen members annually for SUDs and/or when they have a major life event
- Providers who diagnosis patients with SUDs should continue to document the same diagnosis code on follow-up claims to denote that follow-up has occurred.
- 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 a substance use diagnosis code to document that the condition is in remission, e.g., F10.11, (Alcohol Use Disorder, Mild, In early or sustained remission).

* Telehealth visits with the appropriate principal diagnosis also meet the follow-up criteria and are highly recommended.

Did You Know?



- > Less than 20% of individuals with substance use disorders receive treatment.
- > Treatment, including MAT, in conjunction with counseling or other behavioral therapies, has been shown to reduce AOD-associated morbidity and mortality.