



HEDIS® Tip Sheet 2020-21*

Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET)

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has developed Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures as a tool for performance improvement. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) collects HEDIS data from our providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive. The NCQA recommends tracking the HEDIS IET measure for our members.

Why Is the HEDIS IET Measure Important?

In the U.S., about 7% of those 12 and older have a substance use disorder (SUD). About 13% of those with a SUD have multiple substance disorders.¹ People with alcohol or drug addiction receive treatment only about 10% of the time. In contrast, 70% of people with diabetes receive treatment.² Treatment combined with counseling or other behavioral therapies reduces alcohol or other drug (AOD) mortality and improves health, productivity and social outcomes.³

IET Measure Description

The IET measure⁴ applies to our members 13 years and older with a new⁵ diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence. HEDIS requires adequate and timely treatment following the new diagnosis. Treatment may occur in the inpatient, residential, outpatient,⁶ medication-assisted treatment (MAT) or telehealth setting. Document two stages of follow-up treatment:

- **Initiation of Treatment:** received one treatment session within 14 days of diagnosis⁷
- **Engagement of Treatment:** received at least two additional treatment sessions within 34 days of diagnosis (e.g., received second session on day 12 and third on day 32)

Medical Record Documentation and Best Practices

- Discuss the importance of timely, recommended follow-up visits
- Use the same diagnosis for substance use at each follow-up
- Coordinate care between behavioral health and primary care physicians:
 - Share progress notes and updates
 - Include the diagnosis for substance use
- Reach out to members who cancel appointments and assist them with rescheduling as soon as possible
- The use of a non-substance diagnosis code will not fulfill this measure

* Measurement Year (MY) 2020 and MY 2021

1 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, page 40; <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

2 Partnership to End Addiction, Fast Facts About Addiction, accessed 7/8/2020; <https://drugfree.org/article/fast-facts-about-addiction/>

3 NCQA HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021, HEDIS measure for IET, accessed 7/8/2020; <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/initiation-and-engagement-of-alcohol-and-other-drug-abuse-or-dependence-treatment>

4 NCQA HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021 Technical specifications for health plans, volume 2, Washington DC, 2020

5 NCQA HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021 Technical specifications; Defined as no diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence in previous 60 days

6 NCQA HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021 Technical specifications; Outpatient treatment includes an intensive outpatient or partial hospital program

7 NCQA HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021 Technical specifications; Inpatient stays or emergency department visits that result in an inpatient stay, the date of diagnosis is considered the date of discharge from the facility

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Behavioral Health Codes

Coding Instructions

Use CPT®, HCPCS and ICD-10 to close care gaps

IET Visits

CPT: 98960-2, 99078, 99201-5, 99211-5, 99241-5, 99341-50, 99384-7, 99394-7, 99401-4, 99408-9 99411-2, 99483, 99510

Alcohol Counseling or Other Follow-up

CPT: 99408-9

HCPCS: G0396-7, G0443, H0005, H0007, H0016, H0022, H0050, H2035-6, T1006, T1012

AOD Medication Treatment

HCPCS: G2067-77, G2080, G2086-7, H0020, H0033, J0570, J0571-5, J2315, Q9991-2, S0109

Substance Use Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10: F10-16.xx, F18-19.xx

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