

Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment

Substance Abuse

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

Treatment Documentation⁴

Document for members 13 years and older adequate and timely treatment following a new⁵ diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence. 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

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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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 Measurement Year (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