

Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (IET)

For patients 13 years of age and older, percentage of new episodes of substance use disorder (SUD) that result in 1 or both of the following:

- **Initiation of SUD treatment:** Percentage of new SUD episodes that result in treatment through an inpatient SUD admission, outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter, partial hospitalization, telehealth visit, or medication treatment within 14 days of diagnosis.
- **Engagement of SUD treatment:** Percentage of new SUD episodes that result in treatment within 34 days of initiation visit.

Documentation Requirements

- The patient must receive an initiation of substance use disorder treatment within 14 days; without this initiation visit, they are not eligible for closing the engagement care gap thereafter within 34 days.
- Avoid using “unspecified use” diagnoses when possible.
- Each visit must include a date of service and appropriate diagnosis documentation.

Relevant Codes

Compliance requires timely follow-up visits and qualifying services, not a single code submission.

- Important Requirements:
 - **Initiation Phase:** A follow-up visit must occur within 14 days of the initial substance use disorder diagnosis/visit.
 - **Engagement Phase:** At least 2 additional visits within 34 days after initiation.
- This measure is based on visit timing and frequency. Submitting a single claim or code does not close the gap. Multiple qualifying encounters within required time frames are necessary.

Common Documentation Insufficiencies

- When a patient is in remission, please remember to remove the original diagnosis and use remission codes:
 - Alcohol abuse in remission (F10.11)
 - Alcohol dependence in remission (F10.21)
 - Cannabis abuse in remission (F12.11)
 - Other psychoactive substance dependence in remission (F19.21)

Best Practices

- This measure focuses on follow-up treatment when diagnosing a patient with substance use disorder.
- Use screening tools to aid in diagnosing. Screening tools (e.g., SBIRT, AUDIT-PC, Audit C Plus 2, CAGE-AID and CUDIT-R) assist in the assessment of substance use and can aid the discussion around referral for treatment.
- Schedule a follow-up appointment prior to the patient leaving the office with you or a substance use specialist to occur within 14 days and then 2 more visits with you or a substance use treatment provider within the next 34 days.
- Encourage newly diagnosed individuals to include their family in their treatment.
- Encourage newly diagnosed individuals to accept treatment by assisting them in identifying their own reasons for change.
- Although community supports, such as AA and NA, are beneficial, they do not take the place of professional treatment.