

# Provider Tip Sheet

## What is HEDIS®?

HEDIS® (Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set) is a widely used set of performance measures in the managed care industry, developed and maintained by NCQA. HEDIS® measures results and drives improvement efforts surrounding best practices.

## What is the HEDIS® IET measure looking at?

The percentage of new substance use disorder (SUD) episodes that result in treatment initiation and engagement. The measures being evaluated include:

- *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 of the diagnosis.
- *Engagement of SUD Treatment:* The percentage of new SUD episodes that have evidence of treatment engagement within 34 days of initiation.

## Why is the HEDIS® IET measure important?

Early identification of substance use disorder issues can help your patients avoid future drug-related illnesses and deaths, improving quality of life.

## Who is included in the measure?

- Members with a new substance use disorder episode
- Members aged 13+ covered under Commercial, Medicaid or Medicare LOB

## Which Members are excluded?

- Members treated for SUD during the previous 194 days (i.e., 6.5 months)
- Members using hospice services at any time during the year

## When does the Member 'pass' the measure?

- Initiation: SUD treatment within 14 days of the diagnosis episode  
If the episode is an inpatient encounter – this is considered treatment and the Member is compliant.
- Engagement: Compliant with the initiation treatment AND one of the following between the day after and 34 days after the initiation visit:
  - at least 2 inpatient, outpatient, or medication treatment visits (excluding methadone billed on a pharmacy claim)
  - a long-acting SUD medication administration event

## What counts as a follow up visit?

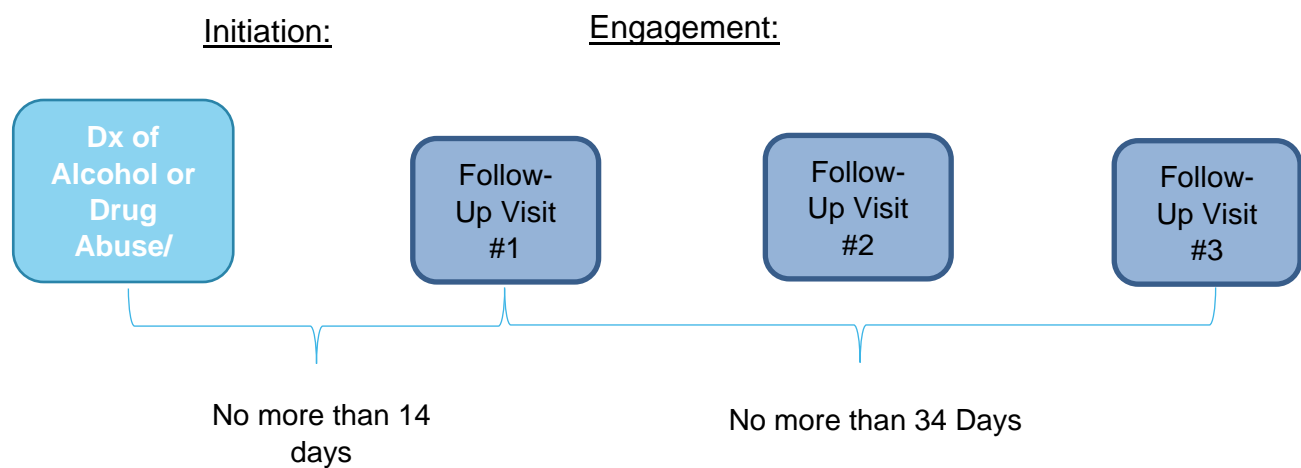
Any of the following services done with a mental health provider or having an SUD diagnosis:

- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| • An outpatient behavioral health or SUD service | • Non-residential substance abuse treatment service | • Behavioral health or SUD assessment |
| • Telehealth/telephone visit                     | • Community mental health center service            | • Pharmacotherapy dispensing event    |
| • Intensive outpatient therapy                   | • Observation visit                                 |                                       |
| • Partial hospitalization visit                  | • Online assessment                                 |                                       |
| • Opioid treatment service                       |   |                                       |

## What can providers do to help improve HEDIS® IET rates?

- Use appropriate documentation and correct coding
- Explain the importance of follow-up to your patients
- Schedule an initial follow-up appointment within 14 days during the first service
- Reach out to patients who do not keep initial appointments and reschedule them as soon as possible
- Utilize telehealth and home based therapy where appropriate
- Provide timely submission of claims and encounter data

## IET Measure At-a-Glance:



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