

Initiation and Engagement of SUD Treatment (IET) HEDIS Measure

Lucet would like to share details on the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure called Initiation and Engagement of SUD Treatment (IET) metric following a new Substance Use Disorder (SUD) diagnosis.

Patients with substance use diagnosis who attend 3+ appointments within 47 days of their initial diagnosis have better outcomes (lower mortality, increased community tenure and quality of life).

It measures the percentage of new substance use disorder (SUD) episodes that result in treatment initiation and engagement. Two rates are reported:

1. 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.
2. Engagement of SUD Treatment. The percentage of new SUD episodes that have evidence of treatment engagement within 34 days of initiation.

Substance Use includes alcohol, opioid, or any other substance use disorder. The patient can be diagnosed in any treatment setting or service. Initiation and engagement service claims must be submitted and include the substance use diagnosis. Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) medication treatment events are included as treatment.

Best Practices

As the diagnosing provider, your role is crucial in influencing and guiding the next steps in your patient's care. Here are some best practices for initiation and engagement in care:

- Complete a thorough substance use assessment.
- Claim should include a complete and accurate Substance Use Disorder (SUD) diagnosis, if applicable. Differentiate between use, abuse, and dependency. Indicate if patient is in remission.
- Schedule or refer to treatment initiation appointment with an applicable provider to occur **within thirteen days (13)** of new diagnosis.
- Schedule two (2) appointments **within the 34-day period** following the initiation appointment.
- Ensure patients and caregivers understand their diagnosis and the next steps in their care.
- Educate the patient about the importance of adherence to treatment recommendations.
- Consider possible barriers to care, including Social Determinants of Health, and work with patients to remove barriers that would prevent them from initiating and engaging in treatment.
- Care should be coordinated between behavioral health providers and the patient's Primary Care Physician.