



Timely Follow-Up *Matters*

For patients discharged from a higher level of care, please try to see the patient within 7 days. Substance use disorders are common for patients seeking behavioral health treatment. For initial assessments, please evaluate for both substance use and mental health disorders. If appropriate and compliant with applicable privacy laws, include substance use disorder and mental health diagnosis(es) on the claim form.

For substance use disorders, differentiate between use, abuse, and dependency. For those identified as having a substance use disorder, please indicate if the patient is “in remission”. Encourage the patient to stay engaged in treatment with at least 2 follow-up visits within 34 days after the initial treatment visit. If the patient has been prescribed medications, please encourage the patient to comply with medications as prescribed.

Patients who have a follow-up visit within 30 days of inpatient discharge are less likely to be readmitted within 30 days.