

## Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET)

### Description

Measures the percentage of new episodes of alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse or dependence in adults and adolescents who are 13 years of age and older that result in initiation and engagement of treatment. Two rates reported:

- Initiation of treatment.
- Engagement of treatment.

### Criteria for meeting the measure

**Initiation of treatment:** Member initiated treatment through an inpatient admission, outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter, partial hospitalization, telehealth, or received medication within 14 days of diagnosis.

*Note: If the episode is an inpatient encounter, it is considered treatment, and the member is compliant for the measure.*

**Engagement of treatment:** Member received **two or more** additional services within 34 days of the initiation visit.

*Notes: Engagement visit(s) cannot occur on the same day as the initiation visit. Two engagement visits may occur on the same day, but they must be with different providers.*

### Best practices and tips for providers to improve member outcomes

- Engage the member in their treatment. If the member is an adolescent, involve the parents/caregivers and educate them on the importance of follow-up care.
- Identify and discuss any barriers to treatment such as transportation, time of appointment, location of appointment.
- Assist member in scheduling appointments: one initiation visit within 14 days of new episode, AND at least two engagement appointments within 34 days of the initiation visit. Remind members of their appointments.
- Outreach to members to remind them of their appointments. If the member cancels or does not show to their appointments, assist in rescheduling.
- Educate members on the importance of treatment adherence and attending follow-up appointments. Continue discussing the member's treatment plan with them.
- Encourage the member to sign a release of information for all treating providers.
- Communicate with primary care physicians and other providers involved with the member's treatment to ensure continuity and coordination of care to support a whole person approach.
- Ensure appropriate documentation, accurate coding, and submit claims in a timely manner.

IET is a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure. See the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) website for more details. <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/initiation-and-engagement-of-substance-use-disorder-treatment/>

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