Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Use Treatment (IET)

Who: Members aged 18 years and older with a new diagnosis of alcohol or other drug use between January 1, 2020 – November 13, 2020. A diagnosis is considered “new” if the member has not had a diagnosis of alcohol or other drug use in the previous 60 days.

Why: Access to treatment for substance use disorder is a critical aspect of a person’s health and their journey through recovery. The IET metric is a tool to encourage coordination across the network of care providers for substance use treatment and helps ensure people have timely access to appropriate care.

What: Two rates are reported for this measure: Initiation and Engagement. Both measures use the same denominator.

1. Initiation – For members with a new episode of alcohol or other drug use (diagnosis on a claim with no other diagnosis in the previous 60 days), this metric measures the percentage of those who initiated treatment within 14 days through either medication dispensing or a visit with a provider.

2. Engagement - For members with a new episode of alcohol or other drug use (diagnosis on a claim with no other diagnosis in the previous 60 days), this metric measures the percentage of those who had two treatment events, either medication dispensing or a visit with a provider, within 34 days from their initial treatment event.
   a. If treatment was initiated through a medication dispensing event, only one of the two required engagement events can be through medication and the other must be through a visit with a provider.

How: There are over 230 codes that count toward numerator criteria for treatment through a visit with a provider; please see OHA specifications for full details. The following medications are counted as numerator compliant treatment events.

Medication Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Prescription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldehyde dehydrogenase inhibitor</td>
<td>Disulfiram (oral)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antagonist</td>
<td>Naltrexone (oral and injectable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Acamprosate (oral; delayed-release tablet)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Prescription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antagonist</td>
<td>Naltrexone (oral and injectable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial Agonist</td>
<td>Buprenorphine (sublingual tablet, injection, implant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buprenorphine/naloxone (sublingual tablet, buccal film, sublingual film)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Methadone is not included in the medication lists for this measure because Methadone for opioid use disorder does not show up in pharmacy claims data. However, Methadone for opioid use disorder treatment does count as treatment for this metric and would be captured on medical claims.

Exclusions: Hospice during any point in the year.

Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Use Treatment (IET) FAQs

Q: Is tobacco use included in this metric?
A: No. While we do consider tobacco use disorder to be included in the continuum of substance use disorders from a clinical perspective, it is not considered as one of the diagnosis codes that would qualify someone for the IET metric.

Q: What is considered as “other drugs” in this metric?
A: The IET measure is looking for substance use disorder diagnosis including alcohol, opioid and other drugs such as cocaine, cannabis, methamphetamine, hypnotics, sedatives, inhalants, etc. See OHA specifications for full list.

Q: How are initial alcohol or other drug use diagnoses identified?
A: Alcohol or other drug use disorder diagnosis codes are identified using claims for services that occurred in the following visit types:
  • Outpatient visits
  • Telehealth
  • Intensive outpatient visits
  • Partial hospitalization
  • Detoxification visits
  • ED visits or Observation
  • Acute or non-acute inpatient admits
  • Online assessment