

Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (IET)

HEDIS® Measurement Year 2024

Measure description: The percentage of new substance use disorder (SUD) episodes for ages 13 years and older (as of the SUD episode date) that result in treatment initiation and engagement. Two rates are reported:

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

SUD episodes

SUD episodes include:

- Alcohol use disorder
- Opioid use disorder
- Other substance use disorder

Between accessing care and completing treatment, early engagement is a critical step. It is important for individuals beginning a new episode of treatment to have access to evidence-based SUD treatment. Individuals with SUDs are at increased risk of overdose, injury, and mortality. When individuals engage in early SUD treatment, it has been found to decrease the odds of negative outcomes.

Strategies for improvement

- Initiate SUD treatment within 14 days of the episode
- Prompt engagement of SUD treatment within 34 days of initiation
- Get the family involved
- Be empathetic and convey hope
- Build connection by asking about their story
- Ask what recovery would mean to them and their family
- Ask about challenges to completing treatment
- Evaluate workflows to identify where patients are being lost to initiation and/or follow up

