

Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment

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The Substance Abuse Treatment Dilemma

According to an article published by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration “In 2016, 20.1 million Americans over 12 years of age (about 7.5% of the population) were classified as having a substance use disorder involving alcohol or other drugs (AOD). The article also stated, “Despite strong evidence, **less than 20%** of individuals with substance use disorders receive treatment.”

Neighborhood’s Performance

Neighborhood measures substance abuse treatment using the HEDIS measure “Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment (IET)”. The IET measure has two components:

1. *Initiation of Treatment:* The percentage of members 13 years of age and older with a diagnosis of alcohol or other drug (AOD) dependence who initiate treatment through an inpatient AOD admission, outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization, telehealth or medication assisted treatment (MAT) within 14 days of the diagnosis.
2. *Engagement in Treatment:* The percentage of members 13 years of age and older with a diagnosis of alcohol or other drug dependence who initiated treatment as described above and who had two or more additional AOD services or medication assisted treatments (MAT) within 34 days of the initiation visit.

Neighborhood’s Medicaid rates are well below the goal of achieving the 2022 National Medicaid Quality Compass (QC) 90th percentiles.

Medicaid IET Rates				
	MY 2019 Rate	MY 2020 Rate	MY 2021 Rate	Goal 2022 QC
IET: Initiation of Treatment	41.75	42.35	40.17	52.81
IET: Engagement of Treatment	16.76	16.45	16.05	22.12

Neighborhood’s IET rates are below the performance incentive benchmarks for these measures established by CMS and the State for the INTEGRITY membership.

INTEGRITY (Medicare-Medicaid Dual Eligible)				
	MY 2019 Rate	MY 2020 Rate	MY 2021 Rate	Goal 2022
IET: Initiation of Treatment	40.74	40.60	36.31	45.00
IET: Engagement of Treatment	12.23	9.32	8.05	16.00

How You Can Help

Neighborhood requests your help in improving access to substance use treatment as measured by the HEDIS measure: *Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment (IET)*.

For your patients newly diagnosed with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), it is important to begin treatment with a substance abuse provider within 14 days of diagnosis and have two additional visits within 34 days after their first visit. Follow up visits can occur in-person or via telemedicine.

Resources That Can Help You

Neighborhood's Behavioral Health partner, Optum, has specific resources available to all physicians that will help you identify SUD treatment providers and schedule appointments for your patients.

- **Substance Use Disorder Helpline:** 1-855-780-5955 - Provides 24/7 support for providers and patients – Once a member calls the help line, the member then speaks directly with a licensed clinician who takes the time to understand the member's needs, educate the member on appropriate treatment options, and then arranges a face-to-face evaluation by a licensed substance use treatment provider.
- **Request coordination of care and referrals** for your patients by calling the number on the back of the member's health plan ID card to speak to a licensed clinician or by searching liveandworkwell.com using access code "clinician."
- **Screening tools** are available on providerexpress.com > Clinical Resources > Alcohol or Other Drug Disorders.
- **You can also find additional tools and information about behavioral health issues** on providerexpress.com > Clinical Resources > Behavioral Health Toolkit for Medical Providers.
- **Training Modules and Webinars from Optum** are also available on provider express at the link below:
 - <https://www.providerexpress.com/content/ope-provexpr/us/en/training/webinars.html>
- **Patient education information** is available on liveandworkwell.com using access code "clinician." See "Mind & Body" at the top, scroll down to find the links to specific topics.