



Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA)

Please note that the information offered in this flyer is based on Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) technical specifications. It is not meant to replace your clinical judgment.

Lack of either access to care or continuity of care leads to high emergency department (ED) use for those with substance use disorder (SUD).¹ Reduction in substance use, ED use and hospital admissions can result from timely follow-up.¹ The FUA measure evaluates the percentage of eligible ED visits with measure-compliant follow-up.

Who is included in the FUA measure?

- Members 13 years old and older with a principal diagnosis of SUD or any diagnosis of drug overdose with an ED visit for SUD

What actions qualify for compliance?

- Follow-up visit with any practitioner, with a principal diagnosis of SUD or any diagnosis of drug overdose within seven days after the ED visit (eight days) or within 30 days after the ED visit (31 days)
- Follow-up visits that occur on the date of the ED visit
- The following meet criteria for a follow-up visit and pharmacotherapy event:
 - Outpatient visit
 - Intensive outpatient encounter
 - Non-residential substance abuse treatment facility
 - Community mental health treatment center
 - Observation visit, telephone visit, e-visit/ virtual check-in
 - Peer support service
 - Opioid treatment service that bills monthly or weekly
 - Pharmacotherapy dispensing event
 - Behavioral health screening or assessment for SUD or mental health disorders
 - SUD service

Common ICD-10 codes for SUD and drug overdose include but are not limited to: F1010, F1110, F1210, F1310, F1410, F1510, F1610, F1810, F1910, T40.1X1A, T40.411A, T42.4X1A

What can providers do to improve the compliance rate?

- Use correct coding, and submit claims and encounter data in a timely manner.
- Emphasize to patients the importance of follow-up care, and instruct them to notify the office within 24–48 hours post-discharge from the ED.
- Reach out to patients to schedule a follow-up appointment promptly after notification of ED visit.
- Prioritize follow-up appointments for ED visits, and reschedule patients who do not keep their initial appointment within 24 hours.

¹ NCQA (n.d.) Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA). Retrieved on Aug. 10, 2021, from <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/follow-up-after-emergency-department-visit-for-alcohol-and-other-drug-abuse-or-dependence/>

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