

## Overview of Substance Use Disorder Measures in the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets

### Introduction

Improving outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorders (SUDs) is a top priority for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The opioid epidemic in particular continues to highlight the need for both preventing inappropriate prescribing and providing access to high quality treatment.

In keeping with these objectives, CMS added new SUD measures to the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets.<sup>1,2</sup> The Use of Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) was added to both the Adult and Health Home Core Sets for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 reporting. Additionally, the Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA) measure, which has been part of the Adult Core Set since FFY 2017, was added to the Health Home Core Set for FFY 2020.

This fact sheet provides an overview of the SUD measures in the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets. The 2020 Adult Core Set includes five SUD measures and the 2020 Health Home Core Set includes three SUD measures as presented (see Table 1). Successful reporting of these measures will help CMS and states to continue their quality improvement efforts and to monitor progress in combatting the opioid crisis.

**Table 1. Overview of SUD Measures Included in the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets**

NQF#	Measure Name	Adult	Health Home
0004	Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET-AD / IET-HH)	✓	✓
2940	Use of Opioids at High Dosage in Persons Without Cancer (OHD-AD)	✓	
3389	Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB-AD)	✓	
3400	Use of Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD-AD / OUD-HH)	✓	✓
3488	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA-AD / FUA-HH)	✓	✓

### SUD Treatment Measures in the Adult and Health Home Core Sets

The 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets include three measures of treatment for substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder and alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse or dependence (see Table 2 for an overview of the measures).

<sup>1</sup> More information on updates to the 2020 Adult Core Set is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/cib111919.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> More information on new substance use disorder (SUD) quality measures in the Health Home Core Set is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib112719.pdf>.

**Table 2. Overview of SUD Treatment Measures in the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets**

	IET-AD / IET-HH	FUA-AD / FUA-HH	OUD-AD / OUD-HH
<b>Measure steward</b>	National Committee for Quality Assurance	National Committee for Quality Assurance	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
<b>Description</b>	<p>Percentage of beneficiaries age 18 and older<sup>1</sup> with a new episode of AOD abuse or dependence who received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiation of AOD treatment within 14 days of diagnosis</li> <li>• Engagement of AOD treatment, defined as engaged in ongoing AOD treatment within 34 days of initiation visit</li> </ul> <p>Each rate is stratified by the following AOD diagnosis cohorts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol abuse or dependence</li> <li>• Opioid abuse or dependence</li> <li>• Other drug abuse or dependence</li> <li>• Total AOD abuse or dependence</li> </ul>	<p>Percentage of emergency department (ED) visits for beneficiaries age 18 and older<sup>2</sup> with a principal diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence who had a follow-up visit with a corresponding principal diagnosis for AOD abuse or dependence.</p> <p>Two rates are reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A follow-up visit within 30 days of the ED visit</li> <li>• A follow-up visit within 7 days of the ED visit</li> </ul>	<p>Percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries ages 18 to 64 with an opioid use disorder (OUD) who filled a prescription for or were administered or dispensed an FDA-approved medication for the disorder during the measurement year.</p> <p>This measure includes a Total rate as well as four separate rates representing the following four types of FDA-approved drug products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buprenorphine</li> <li>• Oral naltrexone</li> <li>• Long-acting, injectable naltrexone</li> <li>• Methadone</li> </ul>
<b>Numerator</b>	<p>Beneficiaries who received AOD treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 14 days of diagnosis (Initiation of AOD treatment)</li> <li>• Within 34 days of the initiation event (Engagement of AOD treatment) where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initiation of AOD treatment event was a medication treatment event, and the beneficiary received two or more engagement events, only one of which was a medication treatment event</li> <li>• Or the initiation of AOD treatment event was not a medication treatment event, and the beneficiary received at least one engagement medication treatment event or at least two engagement visits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Number of ED visits for beneficiaries with a principal diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence who had a follow-up visit with any practitioner with a principal diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 30 days of the ED visit</li> <li>• Within 7 days of the ED visit</li> </ul>	<p>Beneficiaries with evidence of at least one prescription filled or who were administered or dispensed an FDA-approved medication for OUD during the measurement year</p>
<b>Denominator</b>	Beneficiaries with a new diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence	ED visits with a primary diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence	Beneficiaries who had at least one encounter with a diagnosis of opioid abuse, dependence, or remission (primary or other) at any time during the measurement year
<b>Index Episode Start Date</b>	The earliest date of service for an eligible encounter between January 1 and November 13 with a diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence	None	None
<b>Exclusions</b>	Beneficiaries who use hospice services during the measurement year	Beneficiaries who use hospice services during the measurement year	None
<b>Data source</b>	Administrative or electronic health record	Administrative	Administrative

<sup>1</sup>The IET-HH measure is reported for Health Home enrollees age 13 and older. <sup>2</sup> The FUA-HH measure is reported for Health Home enrollees age 13 and older.

### ***Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET-AD / IET-HH)***

The “Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment” (IET-AD / IET-HH) measure examines the percentage of beneficiaries with a new diagnosis of AOD abuse or dependence who received treatment. This measure includes two rates: one for the initiation of timely AOD treatment and one for the continuation (engagement) of AOD treatment.

In addition to the total initiation and engagement rates, the measure is stratified by three diagnosis cohorts: (1) alcohol abuse or dependence, (2) opioid abuse or dependence, and (3) other drug abuse or dependence. For the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Set, the measure steward revised the IET-AD and IET-HH technical specifications, most notably as follows:

- Revised description of the Engagement of AOD Treatment rate to include all beneficiaries who were engaged in ongoing AOD treatment (rather than only beneficiaries who had two or more additional AOD services or medication).
- Added guidance that the measure requires that medication assisted treatment (MAT) services match the diagnosis category of the index episode identified in the denominator to count toward the numerator of the engagement rate.
- Revised the Intake Period to end on November 13 of the measurement year.
- Added “outpatient visits” to several sections including: index episode start date, negative diagnosis history, and event/diagnosis.
- Clarified that the diagnosis must be on the discharge claim when identifying acute and nonacute inpatient discharges.
- Updated medications in the “Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Medications List.”
- Clarified criteria for numerator compliance of engagement of AOD treatment noting that engagement events begin on the day after the initiation encounter through 34 days after the initiation event.
- Clarified in the Additional Notes section that pharmacy claims for methadone are not included in the medication lists for the measure because this would be more indicative of treatment for pain than opioid use.

### ***Follow-up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA-AD / FUA-HH)***

The “Follow-up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence” (FUA-AD / FUA-HH) measure examines the percentage of emergency department (ED) visits for beneficiaries with AOD abuse or dependence who received follow-up with a corresponding principal diagnosis for AOD abuse or dependence.

### ***Use of Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD-AD / OUD-HH)***

The “Use of Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder” (OUD-AD / OUD-HH) measure was added to the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets to address medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and improve understanding of the quality of care across the continuum of care for SUDs. For states that operate a SUD-focused Health Home Program, the addition of this measure supports new reporting requirements under the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment For Patients and Community Act.

The measure assesses the percentage of beneficiaries who filled a prescription for or were administered or dispensed a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medication for the disorder during the measurement year. The measure includes a total rate capturing any medication use in the medication assisted treatment of opioid dependence and addiction as well as four separate rates representing the following types of FDA-approved drug products: (1) buprenorphine, (2) oral naltrexone, (3) long-acting, injectable naltrexone, and (4) methadone.

### **Opioid Use Measures in the Adult Core Set**

As part of CMS’s effort to combat the opioid crisis, two Adult Core Set measures assess potentially inappropriate prescribing of opioids: Use of Opioids at High Dosage in Persons Without Cancer (OHD-AD) and Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB-AD) (see Table 3 for an overview of the measures).

### *Use of Opioids at High Dosage in Persons Without Cancer (OHD-AD)*

The “Use of Opioids at High Dosage in Persons Without Cancer” (OHD-AD) measure examines the percentage of beneficiaries who were prescribed opioids with a high average daily dosage over a period of 90 days or more, which is a measure of potential overuse and is linked to an increased risk of morbidity and mortality.<sup>3</sup> For the 2020 Adult Core Set, the measure steward updated the technical specifications for the OHD-AD measure, most notably including:

- Added exclusion for beneficiaries with sickle cell disease diagnosis.
- Modified the value set to include codes for identifying beneficiaries in hospice and with sickle cell disease diagnosis.

### *Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB-AD)*

The “Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines” (COB-AD) measure addresses two measurement areas: early opioid use and polypharmacy. This measure examines the percentage of beneficiaries with concurrent use of prescriptions for opioids and benzodiazepines, which is linked to an increased risk of morbidity and mortality. For the 2020 Adult Core Set, the measure steward updated the COB-AD technical specifications, most notably including:

- Added exclusion for beneficiaries with sickle cell disease diagnosis.
- Modified the value set to include codes for identifying beneficiaries in hospice and with sickle cell disease diagnosis.
- Added additional criteria to determine the eligible population in the event/diagnosis step including:
  - Identify beneficiaries with an index prescription start date on January 1 through December 2 of the measure year
  - Exclude beneficiaries who met hospice, cancer diagnosis, or sickle cell disease diagnosis.

**Table 3. Overview of Opioid Use Measures in the 2020 Adult Core Set**

	OHD-AD	COB-AD
<b>Measure steward</b>	Pharmacy Quality Alliance	Pharmacy Quality Alliance
<b>Description</b>	Percentage of beneficiaries age 18 and older who received prescriptions for opioids with an average daily dosage greater than or equal to 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) over a period of 90 days or more	Percentage of beneficiaries age 18 and older with concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines for 30 or more cumulative days
<b>Numerator</b>	Beneficiaries who received prescriptions for opioids with an average daily dosage greater than or equal to 90 MME over a period of 90 days or more	Beneficiaries with two or more prescription claims for any benzodiazepine and concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines for 30 or more cumulative days
<b>Denominator</b>	Beneficiaries with two or more opioid prescription claims, for which the sum of the days' supply is greater than or equal to 15	Beneficiaries with two or more opioid prescription claims, for which the sum of the days' supply is greater than or equal to 15
<b>Index Prescription Start Date</b>	Beneficiary must have an index prescription start date between January 1 and October 3 of the measurement year and have an opioid episode of 90 days or more	Beneficiary must have an index prescription start date between January 1 and December 2 of the measurement year
<b>Exclusions</b>	Beneficiaries with a cancer diagnosis, sickle cell disease diagnosis, or in hospice	Beneficiaries with a cancer diagnosis, sickle cell disease diagnosis, or in hospice
<b>Data source</b>	Administrative	Administrative

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.” 2019. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>.

## Technical Assistance Resources for the SUD Measures

Several resources are available to help states calculate the SUD measures for the 2020 Adult and Health Home Core Sets.

### Adult Core Set TA Resources

- The technical specifications for all five SUD measures and all other measures in the Adult Core Set are in the FFY 2020 Adult Core Set Resource Manual, available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/medicaid-adult-core-set-manual.pdf>.
- The OHD-AD and COB-AD measures require use of National Drug Codes (NDCs) for opioid and benzodiazepine medications. The codes are available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/2020-adult-COB-OHD-value-set-NDC-directory.zip>. The only opioids and benzodiazepines that should be included when calculating these measures are those in the NDC lists. The file also contains guidance on MME conversion factors.
- The FFY 2020 Adult Core Set Measurement Period Table includes the date ranges that should be used for the denominators and numerators for these measures, and is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/ffy-2020-adult-core-set-measurement-periods.pdf>.
- The FFY 2020 Adult Core Set Data Quality Checklist contains additional guidance to help states improve the completeness, accuracy, consistency, and documentation of the data reported, and is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/adult-data-quality-checklist.pdf>.

### Health Home Core Set TA Resources

- The technical specifications for the three SUD measures and all other measures in the Health Home Core Set are in the FFY 2020 Health Home Core Set Resource Manual, available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/health-home-information-resource-center/downloads/FFY-2020-HH-Core-Set-Manual.pdf>.
- The FFY 2020 Health Home Core Set Measurement Period Table includes the date ranges that should be used for the denominators and numerators for these measures, and is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/health-home-information-resource-center/downloads/hh-core-set-measurement-period-table-2020.pdf>.
- The FFY 2020 Health Home Core Set Data Quality Checklist contains additional guidance to help states improve the completeness, accuracy, consistency, and documentation of the data reported, and is available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/health-home-information-resource-center/downloads/data-quality-checklist-for-states-2020.pdf>.

### For More Information

- For technical assistance related to calculating and reporting Adult and Health Home Core Set measures, contact the technical assistance mailbox at [MACqualityTA@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MACqualityTA@cms.hhs.gov).