General

Title
Substance use disorders: percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of current substance abuse or dependence who were screened for depression within the 12 month reporting period.

Source(s)

Measure Domain

Primary Measure Domain
Clinical Quality Measures: Process

Secondary Measure Domain
Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

Description
This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of current substance abuse or dependence who were screened for depression within the 12 month reporting period.

Rationale
Depression is one of the most common co-occurring psychiatric conditions in patients with substance use disorders and a condition for which a variety of screening methods have proven effective. Identifying depression and other co-occurring psychiatric disorders in patients with substance use disorders is essential for proper management and key to developing an integrated treatment approach, which is associated with better outcomes. Despite its importance, research has shown that more than 30% of patients with risk factors for depression, including alcohol or other drug abuse, were not asked about the presence or absence of depression or depressive symptoms.

The following clinical recommendation statements are quoted verbatim from the referenced clinical guidelines (from the American Psychiatric Association [APA]) and represent the evidence base for the measure:
All patients with a substance use disorder should be carefully assessed for the presence of co-occurring psychiatric disorders, including additional substance use disorders. (APA, 2006)

All positive screening tests should trigger full diagnostic interviews that use standard diagnostic criteria (i.e., those from the fourth edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders [DSM-IV]) to determine the presence or absence of specific depressive disorders, such as major depression and/or dysthymia. The severity of depression and comorbid psychological problems (e.g., anxiety, panic attacks, or substance abuse) should be addressed. (U.S. Preventive Services Task Force [USPSTF], 2002)

In general, treatment of depressive symptoms of moderate to severe intensity should begin concurrently or soon after initiating treatment of the co-occurring substance use disorder, particularly if there is evidence of prior mood episodes. In individuals without prior episodes of depression or a family history of mood disorders, it may be appropriate to delay the treatment of mild to moderate depressive symptoms for the purpose of diagnostic clarification. Clinicians are advised to monitor symptoms, assess and reassess for suicidal ideation, provide education, encourage abstinence from substances, and observe changes in mental status during the substance-free period while actively considering whether antidepressant intervention is indicated. (APA, 2006)

Evidence for Rationale


Primary Health Components

Substance abuse or dependence; screening for depression

Denominator Description

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of current substance abuse or dependence (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

Numerator Description

Patients who were screened for depression within the 12 month reporting period

Evidence Supporting the Measure

Type of Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality for the Measure

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical research evidence

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Additional Information Supporting Need for the Measure

Unspecified
Extent of Measure Testing
Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

State of Use
Current routine use

Current Use
not defined yet

Application of the Measure in its Current Use

Measurement Setting
Ambulatory/Office-based Care
Community Health Care

Professionals Involved in Delivery of Health Services
not defined yet

Least Aggregated Level of Services Delivery Addressed
Individual Clinicians or Public Health Professionals

Statement of Acceptable Minimum Sample Size
Does not apply to this measure

Target Population Age
Age greater than or equal to 18 years

Target Population Gender
Either male or female

National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care

National Quality Strategy Aim
Better Care

National Quality Strategy Priority

Prevention and Treatment of Leading Causes of Mortality

Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Health Care Quality Report
Categories

IOM Care Need

Getting Better

Living with Illness

IOM Domain

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

Case Finding Period

Unspecified

Denominator Sampling Frame

Patients associated with provider

Denominator (Index) Event or Characteristic

Clinical Condition

Encounter

Patient/Individual (Consumer) Characteristic

Denominator Time Window

not defined yet

Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of current substance abuse or dependence

Exclusions

Documentation of medical reason(s) for not screening for depression
Exclusions/Exceptions
not defined yet

Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions
Inclusions
Patients who were screened for depression within the 12 month reporting period
Exclusions
None

Numerator Search Strategy
Fixed time period or point in time

Data Source
Administrative clinical data
Electronic health/medical record
Paper medical record

Type of Health State
Does not apply to this measure

Instruments Used and/or Associated with the Measure
Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

Measure Specifies Disaggregation
Does not apply to this measure

Scoring
Rate/Proportion

Interpretation of Score
Desired value is a higher score

Allowance for Patient or Population Factors
not defined yet
Standard of Comparison
not defined yet

Identifying Information

Original Title
Measure #3: screening for depression among patients with substance abuse or dependence.

Measure Collection Name
Substance Use Disorders Physician Performance Measurement Set

Submitter
American Psychiatric Association - Medical Specialty Society

Developer
American Psychiatric Association - Medical Specialty Society
National Committee for Quality Assurance - Health Care Accreditation Organization
Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® - Clinical Specialty Collaboration

Funding Source(s)
Unspecified

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Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest
Conflicts, if any, are disclosed in accordance with the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® conflict of interest policy.

Adaptation
This measure was not adapted from another source.

Date of Most Current Version in NQMC
2008 Jul

Measure Maintenance
Unspecified

Date of Next Anticipated Revision
Unspecified

Measure Status
This is the current release of the measure.
The measure developer reaffirmed the currency of this measure in December 2015.

Measure Availability
Source not available electronically.
For more information, contact the American Psychiatric Association (APA) at 1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1825, Arlington, VA 22209; Phone: 888-357-7924; E-mail: apa@psych.org; Web site: www.psychiatry.org.

NQMC Status
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The information was reaffirmed by the measure developer on December 16, 2015.

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Production
Source(s)
Disclaimer

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