

Substance Use Measures

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Background

- ▶ This measure set is required for **The Joint Commission** participating hospitals only.
- ▶ Data demonstrates that an estimated 22.6 million adolescents and adults meet criteria for a substance use disorder. Clinical trials have demonstrated that brief interventions, especially prior to addiction, significantly improve health and reduce health care costs.
- ▶ These studies also demonstrate that those with addictive disorders who are referred to treatment programs often experienced improved health.
- ▶ Inpatient hospitalization provides an opportunity to address substance use and treatment options.

SUB-1 Alcohol Use Screening Measure



- ▶ Each hospital must use a validated screening questionnaire for unhealthy drinking.
- ▶ This screening must be done within the first day of admission (by the end of Day 1).
- ▶ Some patients may refuse screening and this must be clearly documented in the medical record.
- ▶ Patients who have a blood alcohol test result demonstrating acute intoxication are considered to participate in unhealthy drinking.
- ▶ With few exclusions, all patients 18 years of age and older are included in this measure set. Those excluded are patients who are cognitively impaired, patients whose length of stay is less than or equal to **one** day, length of stay greater than 120 days and patients with comfort measures only documented.

SUB-2 Alcohol Use Intervention Measure

- ▶ Patients who screen positive for unhealthy alcohol use must be offered a brief intervention during the hospital stay.
- ▶ Documentation of the intervention must be included in the medical record.
- ▶ If the patient refuses such an intervention, this must be documented in the medical record.



Excluded Patients For SUB- 1 and 2

- ▶ With few exclusions, all patients 18 years if age and older are included in this measure set.
- ▶ Those excluded are patients who are:
 - cognitively impaired
 - patients whose length of stay is less than or equal to **one** day,
 - length of stay greater than 120 days
 - patients with comfort measures only documented.

Sub- 3 Discharge Plan



- ▶ Patients who screen positive for alcohol or drug use disorders should be provided treatment such as a prescription for a FDA approved medication for alcohol or drug use disorder or a referral for follow-up addiction treatment.
- ▶ If the patient refuses to participate in one of these treatments the refusal must be documented in the medical record.

SUB- 3 Exclusions

Patients that:

- are transferred to another facility,
- leave AMA,
- are discharged to hospice,
- or live outside the USA,

are excluded from this measure set.

Test your knowledge

1. Only patients that looked impaired need to be screened for alcohol or drug use.

A. True

B. False

Test your knowledge

2. Patients who screen positive for alcohol or drug use disorder should be offered _____ during their hospital stay.

- A. a private room
- B. a brief Intervention
- C. an extra snack

Test your knowledge

3. Discharge information should include a referral to an addiction treatment program or prescription for a FDA approved alcohol or drug use disorder medication.

- A. True
- B. False

The End