

TIP Measure Details Guide: *Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (AOD): 1+ Visits in 34 Days*

The AHCCCS Targeted Investments Program (TIP) Quality Improvement Collaborative (QIC) evaluates TI-participating Providers' performance on select quality measures and assists providers in performance improvement efforts. This guide is for use by TI-participating Providers to build their understanding of the TI AOD measure, which is based on the Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET) measure. IET is a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure designed and maintained by the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\)](#).

Why It Matters

In 2020, 40.3 million Americans aged 12 or older (or about 14.5% of the population) were classified as having a substance use disorder involving AOD in the past year (2). Treatment over an extended period is associated with reduced drug use, decreased criminal activity, and improved occupational, social, and psychological functioning (3). In addition, treatment has been shown to reduce health and social costs more than the cost of the treatment itself (3). The best programs provide a combination of therapies and other services—such as counseling or other behavioral therapies, and medication-assisted treatment—to meet an individual patient's needs (3). Despite strong evidence, only 6.5% of Americans aged 12 or older in 2020 with a substance use disorder received any substance use treatment in the past year (2).

What We Measure

TI Justice - Alcohol and other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (AOD): Percentage of justice-involved adults referred to a TI Justice clinic who initiated and/or had two or more additional AOD services or medication-assisted treatment (MAT) within 34 days of the qualifying visit.

The TI Justice AOD measure is based on the HEDIS [Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment \(IET\) MY 2019](#) measure, but with small modifications to better measure intended performance of the TI Justice population. Unless otherwise noted, the information in this document pertains to the TI Justice AOD measure.

Your performance is reported as a percentage calculated as the $\frac{\text{numerator}}{\text{denominator}}$.

| TI Areas of Concentration (AOC) | Denominator Definition | Numerator Definition |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Justice | <p>TI Justice AOD Denominator: Justice-involved adolescents and adults 13 years and old who are referred to a TI Justice clinic and who have an inpatient or outpatient visit with an AOD diagnosis and qualifying service (e.g., IET stand-alone visit or detoxification).</p> <p>Note: If a member has multiple denominator-qualifying episodes in the reporting period, only the first episode is considered for the measure.</p> <p>Note: To qualify for the denominator, members must be enrolled on the episode end date through 34 days after the episode end date with no breaks in enrollment.</p> | <p>TI Justice AOD Numerator: Members in the denominator who have at least one qualifying follow-up visit within 34 days of the episode end date.</p> <p>Note: This differs from HEDIS standards, which require at least one follow-up visit within 14 days (initiation of treatment) and at least two follow-up visits within 34 days of treatment initiation (engagement of treatment).</p> |

What Is the Reporting Period?

- A HEDIS measure’s reporting period is a continuous 12-month window.
- [TIP Provider Dashboards](#) show your organization’s performance on the selected measure for 12 consecutive, overlapping report periods, where each report period is a 12-month period ending in the month and year shown on the X-axis. Your performance levels for 12 report periods are provided so you can track how your performance changes across time.
- TI incentive payments are based on your performance for the Federal Fiscal Years (October 1st – September 30th).

Which Members Are in my Denominator?

To understand the members that you are accountable for and who are attributed to you (i.e., in your denominator) for this measure, you need to know the denominator definition (above), as well as the AHCCCS member population assessed and attribution method used.

Member Population Assessed (Justice AOC)

- Members referred to a TI Justice Clinic in the two years prior to the end of the reporting period who are enrolled in one of the seven AHCCCS Complete Care (ACC) health plans. Members with SMI who meet the referral and health plan enrollment stated above are included.
 - TI Justice Clinics and AHCCCS health plans provide ASU TIP team with monthly referral lists. Instructions on [Justice Referral Lists](#) are on the TIPQIC website.

TI Justice Clinics

Thirteen integrated clinics co-located with, or adjacent to, probation and/or parole offices that collaborate with providers to meet the members’ health and social needs. The clinics prioritize access to appointments for individuals with complex health conditions, including same-day access to appointments on the day of release and during visits to a probation or parole office. Each clinic partners with regional community partners to meet the whole-person needs of AHCCCS members referred by the probation/parole office, courts, jails/prisons, and police departments.

Attribution Methods

- Attribution is re-evaluated each month for all report periods displayed on the dashboard.
- The attribution method used is specific to each AOC. Review the attribution method specific to the TI AOC you are enrolled in:

| TI Area of Concentration (AOC) | Attribution Method |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attribution is done using member referral lists (i.e., Justice Referral Lists). • For more detail on this and the other Justice measures see the Justice Measure Evaluation & Attribution video (slides). |

What Services Qualify for the Numerator?

Billing Codes

- TI Program Years 4-6 use HEDIS Measurement Year 2019 measure definitions.
- Due to licensing agreements, we are not able to publish a list of all qualifying services codes. However, we can direct you to resources containing the billing codes.
 - Please see these Arizona Health Plan Measure Guides. You do not have to be contracted with the plan to access these resources.
 - Care 1st’s [HEDIS MY2019 Key Behavioral Measures \(18 Years and Older\)](#)
 - United Healthcare’s [HEDIS MY2019 Reference Guide for Adult Health](#)
 - For more information on HEDIS measures or to get your own license, see the [NCQA HEDIS site](#).
 - Value sets and codes used in HEDIS 2020 (Measurement Year 2019) measure calculations are available at no cost. Download the 2019 Quality Rating System (QRS) HEDIS Value Set Directory from the [NCQA store](#).

- In addition to the billing codes listed in the linked guides, the following accommodations have been made for TI performance measurement:
 - The measure’s numerator-qualifying telehealth services will get credit if they follow AHCCCS’s telehealth billing guidelines allowed on the date of service.
 - Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) services (i.e., codes 99492, 99493, and 99494) will count as a numerator-qualifying visit for all servicing provider types (licensed and non-licensed).
 - CoCM is an approach to behavioral health integration recognized by CMS. Please see [TIPQIC.org](https://www.tipqic.org) for billing guidance to maximize CoCM services for FUH compliance and a list of TIP Providers who deliver CoCM services. CoCM was discussed more in depth in our [October 2020 QIC sessions](#).

What Services Do Not Qualify for the Numerator?

- Reach-in (i.e., non-billable) services do not qualify.
- Any procedure code not listed in the previous section does not qualify.

How Do I Document Services to Get Credit on the Measure?

- TI performance measurement relies on claims data. Hybrid chart review does not apply.

What Is My TI Performance Target?

- The table shows the TI targets set for the TI Justice AOD measure. For your organization’s specific target, please see your dashboard or the email received from the AHCCCS TI team.

| TI Area of Concentration (AOC) | AOD | Y4 Target* | Y5 Target | Y6 Target |
|--------------------------------|-----|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Justice | AOD | N/A | 78% or 10%-point improvement** | 78% or 10%-point improvement** |

*No targets were set in TI Year 4 for the Justice area of concentration; this time was used to build a stakeholder-informed attribution method. AHCCCS de-weighted the performance measures for determining the Justice Year 4 incentive payments for the Justice providers. The basis for Justice Year 4 incentive payment was limited to the 1 QIC and submission of IPAT scores.

**TI Justice Providers need to exceed the target or move 10%-points above their baseline, whichever is smaller.

How Were the Performance Targets Determined?

See [TIP QIC website](#) for details on target setting.

Additional TIP Guides

Find [other TIP measure Details Guides](#) on our website, as well as [best Practice Audit Guides](#). For example, *TIP Best Practice Audit: Building Capacity for Performance Excellence* provides best practices for an organizational QI system, which is needed to optimize your organization's QI efforts for this measure.

Questions? Contact the ASU TIPQIC Team (TIPQIC@asu.edu) or AHCCCS Targeted Investments Team (targetedinvestments@azahcccs.gov) with questions or to request further assistance.

References

1. <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/initiation-and-engagement-of-alcohol-and-other-drug-abuse-or-dependence-treatment/>. Accessed 1/18/2022.
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2021). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP21-07-01-003, NSDUH Series H-56). Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.
3. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); National Institutes of Health (NIH); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). (2018). Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide (Third Edition). Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/>.