



Associated Document: Quality Measures for Unhealthy Alcohol Use

Measures should be defined using “IF...THEN” statements, where IF described the clinical presentation of targeted patients to whom the process applies (i.e., the denominator) and THEN described the process of care that could be considered to be applied under these circumstances (i.e., the numerator). For example, the measure for screening for co-occurring depression stated “IF patient has a new Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test – Consumption (AUDIT-C) score ≥ 5 and no documented diagnosis of depression, THEN consider screening for Major Depressive Disorder within 30 days of the index visit. (30 days used as an example of what might be considered a reasonable time period to recall (re-contact) the patient to undertake the action).

Measure	Denominator	Measure Statement	Treatment Phase
Prevalence of AUD: Adequate Identification of Unhealthy Alcohol Use	All active patients ≥ 12 yrs old	Proportion of all patients screened for unhealthy alcohol use	Screening and Assessment
Screening of AUD: Assess for AUD	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 5	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C score ≥ 5 , THEN consider assessing patient for an alcohol use disorder (AUD) within 30 days.	Screening and Assessment
Screening for Depression	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C ≥ 8 or new diagnosis of AUD, THEN consider screening patient for major depressive disorder within 30 days before or after index visit (primary care).	Screening and Assessment
Screening for Suicidality	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has AUDIT-C ≥ 8 or an AUD diagnosis, THEN consider assessing patient for suicidality within 30 days before or after index visit.	Screening and Assessment
Screening for Liver disease	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has AUDIT-C ≥ 8 or an AUD diagnosis, THEN consider screening patient for liver disease within 30 days before or after index visit.	Screening and Assessment
Screening for other substance use	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 5	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C score ≥ 5 , THEN consider screening patient for other substance use (including tobacco) within 30 days of the index visit.	Screening and Assessment
Brief Intervention	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 5	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C score ≥ 5 , THEN consider providing patient a brief intervention within 30 days following the index visit.	Treatment
Discuss Treatment Options	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or an AUD, THEN consider providing patient counseling regarding treatment options within 30 days following the index visit.	Treatment
Psychotherapy Offer	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has AUDIT-C ≥ 8 or an AUD, THEN patient consider offering patient psychotherapy.	Treatment
Psychotherapy Dose	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has AUDIT-C ≥ 8 or an AUD and one or more psychotherapy visits, THEN consider following up with patient with at least 4 visits within the first 12 weeks.	Treatment

Measure	Denominator	Measure Statement	Treatment Phase
Psychotherapy Quality	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has AUDIT-C ≥ 8 or an AUD and one or more psychotherapy visits, THEN consider including elements of an evidence-based psychotherapy.	Treatment
Pharmacotherapy for Alcohol Use Disorder	All patients with AUD in problem list	IF patient has a newly identified diagnosis of alcohol use disorder, THEN consider offering patient pharmacotherapy for alcohol dependence within 90 days following identification.	Treatment
Referral to Recovery Support in the Community	All patients with AUD in problem list	IF patient has a new diagnosis of alcohol use disorder, THEN consider referring the patient to recovery support in the community (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous) within six months following identification.	Treatment
Offer of Housing Services	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or an AUD and a documented housing need, THEN consider referring patient to an organization that can offer housing services within 30 days following identification of the need.	Treatment
Integrated Co-Occurring Disorder Treatment	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 8 or AUD in problem list	IF patient has a current mental health diagnosis and a new AUDIT-C ≥ 8 or an AUD, THEN consider developing treatment goals for both conditions, an integrated treatment plan, OR continuous engagement for both conditions.	Treatment
Treatment Initiation for Alcohol Use Disorder	All patients with AUD in problem list	IF patient has a newly identified diagnosis of an AUD, THEN consider either an inpatient AUD admission or both an initial AUD-related outpatient visit and an additional AUD-related visit within 30 days of the index visit.	Treatment
Treatment Engagement for Alcohol Use Disorder	All patients with AUD in problem list	IF patient has a newly identified AUD diagnosis and has initiated treatment, THEN consider offering patient two additional alcohol-related visits within 30 days following treatment initiation.	Treatment
Reassess Alcohol Use	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 5	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C score ≥ 5 , THEN consider reassessing their quantity and frequency of drinking within 30 days using a structured metric.	Follow-up
Repeat Brief Intervention	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 5	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C ≥ 5 , THEN consider offering them TWO brief interventions within two months of the index visit.	Follow-up
Pharmacotherapy Evaluation and Management	All patients with AUD in problem list	IF patient started on new medication for alcohol use disorder, THEN consider offering at least one alcohol-related follow-up encounter within 30 days of the index visit.	Follow-up
Any Alcohol-Related Follow-Up	All patients with AUDIT-C score ≥ 5	IF patient has a new AUDIT-C score ≥ 5 , THEN consider addressing alcohol consumption at next routine visit.	Follow-up
Detox Follow-up	All active patients ≥ 12 yrs old	IF patient receives medication assisted detox, THEN consider arranging alcohol-related outpatient follow-up within 7 days.	Follow-up
Follow-up Consistent with Chronic Care Management	All active patients ≥ 12 yrs old	IF patient receives alcohol treatment, THEN consider re-evaluating alcohol management quarterly, and treatment adjusted if necessary.	Follow-up

Adapted from:

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5384607/>