



Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness (FUH)

Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) collects quality data from our providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive. Follow-up after Hospitalization for Mental Illness (FUH) is one aspect of care we measure in our quality programs. Quality measures evaluate a prior calendar year performance.

What We Measure

We capture the percentage of discharges for members ages 6 and older who were hospitalized for the treatment of selected mental illness or intentional self-harm and who had a follow-up visit with a mental health practitioner. The follow-up visit must be on a different date than the discharge date. Two percentages are measured and reported:

- Discharges for which members had a follow-up visit within 30 days after discharge
- Discharges for which members had a follow-up visit within 7 days after discharge

Why It Matters

About 1 in 5 Americans experience mental illness in a given year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Mental illnesses are the third most common cause of hospitalization in the U.S. for those ages 18 to 44. According to NCQA, individuals hospitalized for mental illness are vulnerable after discharge. Timely follow-up visits with qualified mental health providers are critical for their well-being.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY

The above material is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician or other health care provider. Physicians and other health care providers are encouraged to use their own medical judgment based upon all available information and the condition of the patient in determining the appropriate course of treatment. The fact that a service or treatment is described in this material is not a guarantee that the service or treatment is a covered benefit and members should refer to their certificate of coverage for more details, including benefits, limitations and exclusions. Regardless of benefits, the final decision about any service or treatment is between the member and their health care provider.

Eligible Population

Members ages 6 and older as of the discharge date are included in this measure.

Note: This measure is based on the number of discharges, not number of members.

Tips to Consider

- Check that the member has a plan for a follow-up visit with a mental health practitioner within 7 and 30 days after discharge.
- Before discharging the member, schedule a follow-up appointment. Contact the member before the visit to remind them.
- Educate inpatient and outpatient providers about clinical practice guidelines and this measure.
- Submit claims and encounter data in a timely manner.

How to Document

FUH data is collected from claims data.