



## ORAL EVALUATION, DENTAL SERVICES (OED)

### MEETING THE HEDIS MEASURE

The OED measure assesses the percentage of members under 21 years of age who received a comprehensive or periodic oral evaluation with a dental provider.

### WHY IS THE MEASURE IMPORTANT?

Good oral health is a vital component of a child's overall health, and oral examinations are important to prevent disease, reverse disease processes, prevent progression of caries and reduce incidence of future lesions. This measure will allow plans to understand if their pediatric members are receiving dental care and to work towards improving access and utilization of dental evaluations.

Dental caries (cavities) is the most common, preventable childhood disease.

Regular dental visits provide cleaning, early diagnosis, treatment, and education about caring for teeth to prevent problems.

Approximately 25% of our nation's children have multiple cavities. Tooth decay is a major cause of tooth loss in children. Oral health is essential to overall health. Dental diseases have negative effects on quality of life in childhood and in older age. Annual dental visits and routine oral care throughout childhood and adolescence can significantly reduce the risks of developing oral disease.

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing and Bowling Business Strategies developed a toolkit in partnership with a group of national experts convened to help advance the field of oral health, mental health and substance use treatment coordination and integration.

According to the National Council, "Challenges with oral health, mental health and substance use are exceedingly common in the United States and contribute heavily to the burden of disease in the nation. There are a multitude of bi-directional connections between oral health and behavioral health (mental health and substance use challenges). In other words, having a mental health or substance use challenge such as depression, anxiety or substance use disorder (SUD) can negatively impact one's oral health, and vice versa. Poor oral health can create or exacerbate problems with mental health, self-esteem, cognitive health, substance use and impede social functioning in areas such as employability and school engagement.

Untreated oral, mental health and substance use challenges are costly and contribute to health disparities. Oral health, mental health and substance use challenges have historically been undertreated in the United States, often with stark disparities in access to care. According to the most recent data provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), nearly 90% of the 20.4 million Americans with a SUD received no treatment, and more than 55% of the 51.1 million Americans with any mental illness received no treatment. Racial disparities in oral health (dental) care utilization, while declining for children, largely remain for the adult and senior population. In a recent study, toothaches were one of the top causes of avoidable visits to the emergency room, suggesting lack of access to regular oral health care. Emergency rooms are not only an expensive care setting but are often not fully equipped to treat oral health conditions."

### HEDIS MEASURE REQUIREMENTS

- Chart documentation should include the date of services for the Oral Evaluation, Dental Service
- Dental visit must be completed by a dental practitioner, which is defined as:
  - Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)
  - Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)
  - Certified & Licensed Dental Hygienist

## HOW TO IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

**Provide** local primary care practitioners with your practice's contact information for easy member referral.

**Encourage** new members to establish a dental home with your practice to ensure good routine oral healthcare and follow ups.

**Find** your dental home when your child's first tooth appears, and no later than their first birthday.

**Remind** parents/guardians to brush child's teeth for two minutes, two times a day, and floss as soon as the teeth start touching.

**Supervise** your young child's toothbrushing.

**Remind** expectant mothers to make dental appointments for the baby either at the eruption of the first tooth or by the age of one.

**Send** parents reminders every six months to schedule for periodic exams, prophylaxis (cleanings), and fluoride treatments.

**Apply** sealants on the first molars to prevent tooth decay.

The following codes can be used to close HEDIS® numerator gaps in care; they are not intended to be a directive of your billing practice

CDT®	
CDT®	D1000-D1999

## REFERENCES

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