

◆ **Measure #9: Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): Antidepressant Medication During Acute Phase for Patients with MDD**

**2009 PQRI REPORTING OPTIONS: CLAIMS-BASED, REGISTRY**

**DESCRIPTION:**

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older diagnosed with new episode of MDD and documented as treated with antidepressant medication during the entire 84-day (12-week) acute treatment phase

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This measure is to be reported for each occurrence of MDD during the reporting period. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

**Measure Reporting via Claims:**

Line-item ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes, CPT codes, and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure's denominator. G-codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure via claims, submit the listed ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes, CPT codes, and the appropriate numerator G-code. All measure-specific coding should be reported ON THE SAME CLAIM.

**NUMERATOR:**

Patients with an 84-day (12-week) acute treatment of antidepressant medication

**Numerator Instructions:** Report G8126: 1) For all patients with a diagnosis of Major Depression, New Episode who were prescribed a full 12-week course of antidepressant medication OR 2) At the completion of a 12-week course of antidepressant medication.

**Definition:**

**New Episode** – Patient with major depression who has not been seen or treated for major depression by any practitioner in the prior 4 months. A new episode can either be a recurrence for a patient with prior major depression or a patient with a new onset of major depression.

**Numerator Quality-Data Coding Options for Reporting Satisfactorily:**

**Acute Treatment with Antidepressant Medication**

**G8126:** Patient with new episode of MDD documented as being treated with antidepressant medication during the entire 12 week acute treatment phase

**OR**

**Acute Treatment with Antidepressant Medication not Completed for Documented Reasons**

**G8128:** Clinician documented that patient with a new episode of MDD was not an eligible candidate for antidepressant medication treatment or patient did not have a new episode of MDD

**OR**

**Acute Treatment with Antidepressant Medication not Completed**

**G8127:** Patient with new episode of MDD not documented as being treated with antidepressant medication during the entire 12 week acute treatment phase

**DENOMINATOR:**

Patients 18 years and older diagnosed with a New Episode of MDD (major depression) and treated with antidepressant medication

**Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):**

Patients aged  $\geq$  18 years on date of encounter

**AND**

**Diagnosis for MDD (line-item ICD-9-CM):** 296.20, 296.21, 296.22, 296.23, 296.24, 296.25, 296.30, 296.31, 296.32, 296.33, 296.34, 296.35, 298.0, 300.4, 309.0, 309.1, 311

**AND**

**Patient encounter during the reporting period (CPT):** 90801, 90802, 90804, 90805, 90806, 90807, 90808, 90809, 90810, 90811, 90812, 90813, 90814, 90815, 90821, 90822, 90823, 90824, 90829, 90845, 90849, 90853, 90857, 90862, 99078, 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99241, 99242, 99243, 99244, 99245, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350, 99510

**RATIONALE:**

The consequences of untreated, or inadequately treated, depression are significant; therefore, adherence to antidepressant medication is very important. Clinical guidelines for depression stress the importance of effective clinical management in increasing patients' medication compliance, monitoring treatment effectiveness, and identifying and managing side effects. If pharmacological treatment is initiated, appropriate dosing and continuation of therapy through the acute and continuation phases decreases recurrence of depression. Thus, evaluation of length of treatment serves as an important indicator of success in promoting patient compliance with the establishment and maintenance of an effective medication regimen.

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

Successful treatment of patients with major depressive disorder is promoted by a thorough assessment of the patient and close adherence to treatment plans. Treatment consists of an acute phase, during which remission is induced; a continuation phase, during which remission is preserved; and a maintenance phase, during which the susceptible patient is protected against the recurrence of a subsequent major depressive episode. Patients who have been treated with antidepressant medications in the acute phase should be maintained on these agents to prevent relapse. *American Psychiatric Association (APA) Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder, 2000*

Antidepressants should be continued for at least 6 months after remission of an episode of depression, because this greatly reduces the risk of relapse. (A: At least one randomized controlled trial as part of a body of literature of overall good quality and consistency addressing the specific recommendation (evidence level-I) without extrapolation) *National Institute for Clinical Excellence (UK), Management of Depression in Primary and Secondary Care, 2004*

In recent years, major depression has come to be considered a chronic and/or recurrent, rather than an acute illness. This reevaluation of the disorder has inherent treatment implications because patients with major depression tend to exhibit episodic recurrence and/or chronic residual symptoms. Considering this, the management of depression can be divided into the acute phase (suppression of symptoms to achieve clinical remission), lasting 8 to 12 weeks, and the maintenance phase (prevention of relapse/recurrence), lasting 6 months or longer. Clinical management is an important component of pharmacotherapy; and includes a brief session of psychoeducation and supportive strategies. During the maintenance phase after remission of acute symptoms, all patients should continue the antidepressant dose that induced remission for at least 6 months. The relapse rate is 35% to 60% if antidepressants are discontinued in the first 6 months, compared with 10% to 25% in patients who continue medications. The risk of relapse is particularly high if drug discontinuation occurs in the first few months of response/remission. *Canadian Psychiatric Association, 2001*