Anti-depressant medication management: (a) Effective Acute Phase Treatment, (b)Effective Continuation Phase Treatment (NQF 0105)

EMeasure Name	Anti-depressant medication management: (a) Effective Acute Phase Treatment,(b)Effective Continuation Phase Treatment	**EMeasure Id**	Pending
Version Number	1	**Set Id**	Pending
Available Date	No information	**Measurement Period**	January 1, 20xx through December 31, 20xx
Measure Steward	National Committee for Quality Assurance		
Endorsed by	National Quality Forum		
Description	The percentage of patients 18 years of age and older who were diagnosed with a new episode of major depression, treated with antidepressant medication, and who remained on an antidepressant medication treatment.		
Measure scoring	Proportion		
Measure type	Process		
Rationale	This multi-component measure assesses different facets of the successful pharmacological management of depression. Depression has a significant impact on patients' quality of life which includes: interference with completing work responsibilities, lack of motivation, and difficulty in concentrating, discomfort, and dealing with coworkers. Depression contributes significantly to poor disease outcomes and premature death. Studies have shown that increasing the intensity of depression treatment may be an important key to improvements in outcomes and cost-effectiveness and that appropriate therapy improves the daily functioning and overall health of patients with depression. Clinical guidelines for depression stress the importance of effective clinical management in: increasing patients' medication compliance; monitoring treatment effectiveness by providers, 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 Statement	*American Psychiatric Association (APA) Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder, 2000 revised, 2005 reviewed* 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.
	When pharmacotherapy is part of the treatment plan, it must be integrated with psychiatric management and any other treatments that are being provided. Patients who have started taking an antidepressant medication should be carefully monitored to assess their response to pharmacotherapy as well as the emergence of side effects, clinical condition and safety. (APA "I" Recommendation: Recommended with substantial clinical confidence)
	Factors to consider when determining the frequency of patient monitoring include the severity of illness, the patient's cooperation with treatment, the availability of social supports, and the presence of co-morbid general medical problems. Visits should be frequent enough to monitor and address suicidality and to promote treatment adherence. In practice, the frequency of monitoring during the acute phase of pharmacotherapy can vary from once a week in routine cases to multiple times per week in more complex cases. Patients who have been treated with antidepressant medications in the acute phase should be maintained on these agents to prevent relapse. (APA "I" Recommendation: Recommended with substantial clinical confidence) Reference: American Psychiatric Association practice guideline for the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder. Am J Psychiatry 2000 Apr;157(4 Suppl):1-45.
Improvement notation	Higher score indicates better quality
Measurement duration	12 months
Reference	
Definition	

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Please refer to the spreadsheet for this measure for detail regarding data criteria and code lists.

Population criteria

- **Initial Patient Population =**

    - AND: "Patient characteristic: birth date" (age) >=18 years 245 days before or simultaneously to the "measurement end date" to identify all patients who will reach the age of 18 or greater as of April 30 of the "measurement period";
    - AND:
    - OR: FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression", priority = Principal, <= 245 days before the "measurement period" and >=245 days before or simultaneously to the "measurement end date";
        - DURING, COUNT >=1;
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter ED";
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter outpatient BH";
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter outpt BH req POS";
                - AND: "Encounter: encounter point of service modifier";
    - OR: FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression", priority is not Principal, <= 245 days before the "measurement period" and >=245 days before or simultaneously to the "measurement end date";
        - COUNT >=2, DURING;
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter ED";
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter outpatient BH";
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter outpt BH req POS";
                - AND: "Encounter: encounter point of service modifier;
    - OR: FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression", priority is not Principal, <= 245 days before the "measurement period" and >=245 days before or simultaneously to the "measurement end date";
        - COUNT >=1, DURING;
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter acute inpatient";
            - OR: "Encounter: encounter non-acute inpatient";
    - AND: "Medication dispensed: antidepressant medications" occurs before FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <=30 days;
    - AND "Medication dispensed: antidepressant medications" occurs after FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <=14 days;
    - AND: "Medication ordered: antidepressant medications" occurs before FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <=30 days;
        AND "Medication ordered: antidepressant medications" occurs after FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <=14 days;
    - AND: "Medication active: antidepressant medications" occurs before FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <=30 days;
        AND "Medication active: antidepressant medications" occurs after FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <=14 days;

- **Denominator =**

    - o AND: All patients in the initial patient population;
    - o AND NOT:
        - o OR: "Diagnosis active: major depression" before or simultaneously to FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <= 120 days;
        - o OR: "Diagnosis active: depression" before or simultaneously to FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression" <=120 days;

- **Numerator 1 =**

    - o AND: MINIMUM, "Medication dispensed: antidepressant medications" >= 84 days after the FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression";

- **Numerator 2 =**

    - o AND: MINIMUM, "Medication dispensed: antidepressant medications" >= 180 days after the FIRST "Diagnosis active: major depression";

- **Exclusions =**

    - o None;

Data criteria (QDS Data Elements)

- **Initial Patient Population =**

    - o "Patient characteristic: birth date" using "birth date code list" before the beginning of the "measurement period";
    - o "Diagnosis active: major depression" using "major depression code list grouping";
    - o "Encounter: encounter ED" using "encounter ED code list";
    - o "Encounter: encounter outpatient BH" using "encounter outpatient BH code list";
    - o "Encounter: encounter outpt BH req POS" using "encounter outpt BH req POS code list";
    - o "Encounter: encounter point of service modifier" using "encounter point of service code modifier list";
    - o "Medication dispensed: antidepressant medications" using "antidepressant medications code list grouping";

- **Denominator =**

    - o "Diagnosis active: depression" using "depression code list"

- **Numerator =**

    - o "Medication dispensed: antidepressant medications" using "antidepressant medications code list grouping";
    - o "Medication ordered: antidepressant medications" using "antidepressant medications code list grouping";

- o "Medication active: antidepressant medications" using "antidepressant medications code list grouping";

- **Exclusions=**

  - o None;

Summary calculation

Calculation is generic to all measures:

- Calculate the final denominator by adding all that meet denominator criteria.
- Subtract from the final denominator all that do not meet numerator criteria yet also meet exclusion criteria. Note some measures do not have exclusion criteria.
- The performance calculation is the number meeting numerator criteria divided by the final denominator.
- For measures with multiple patient populations, repeat this process for each patient population and report each result separately.
- For measures with multiple numerators, calculate each numerator separately within each population using the paired exclusion.

| Measure set | CLINICAL QUALITY MEASURE SET 2011-2012 |