



Description

- This measure was developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance ([NCQA](#)) which monitors the percentage of patients treated with an antidepressant medication and who remained on an antidepressant medication during an acute or continuation treatment phase
- Using pharmacy and medical claims data, eligibility is based upon patients over the age of 18 by the start of the measurement period, diagnosed with major depression during any of the following events:
 - An emergency department visit
 - Acute or non-acute inpatient stay
 - An outpatient visit or intensive outpatient encounter
- Patients must also be continuously enrolled during the measurement period, 105 days prior to the Index Prescription Start Date (IPSD), and 231 days after
 - Each patient is attributed to the pharmacy that fills the most prescription drug claims for antidepressant medications within the measurement period. In the case of a tie, the pharmacy filling the prescription drug claim with the most recent date of service receives the attribution.
- To account for changes in antidepressant therapy, there are allowable gaps during the acute and continuation phases

Medication Classes

Monoamine oxidase inhibitors
Phenylpiperazine antidepressants
Psychotherapeutic combinations
SNRI antidepressants
SSRI antidepressants
Tetracyclic antidepressants
Tricyclic antidepressants
Miscellaneous antidepressants



Calculation

NUMERATOR =

The number of patients who remained on an antidepressant medication during a treatment phase

DENOMINATOR =

The number of eligible patients with depression who were treated with an antidepressant medication for an acute or continuation phase

Exclusions

- Patients without a negative medication history (period of 105 days prior to the prescription claim for an antidepressant where there are no new or refilled prescriptions for an antidepressant).
- Patients without a diagnosis of depression
- Patients not meeting enrollment criteria