Inpatient Utilization – General Hospital/Acute Care (IPU)

HEDIS® Measurement Year 2020 & 2021 Measures

Measure Description: This measure summarizes utilization of acute inpatient care and services (including observation stays) in the following categories:

• Maternity: A delivery is not required for inclusion in the Maternity category; any maternity-related stay is included. Birthing center deliveries count as one day of stay.
• Surgery: From discharges remaining after removing maternity.
• Medicine: Categorized as the discharges remaining after removing maternity and surgery from total inpatient.
• Total inpatient (the sum of Maternity, Surgery and Medicine): Observation stays.

Exclusions – IPU

• Members on hospice.
• Newborn care rendered from birth to discharge home from delivery.
• Nonacute inpatient stays.
• Not condition specific, but identified by location of care (surgery centers, physician clinics, long-term care).
• Discharges with a principal diagnosis of mental health or chemical dependency will not count toward the measure.

Eligible Population

All ages.

Utilization measures such as IPU assist in tracking:

• Members that are inpatient for chronic medical conditions.
• Length of stay while inpatient.

By using data captured with utilization measures we can hopefully lower healthcare costs by assisting these patients manage their conditions on an outpatient basis.

Strategies for Decreasing Inpatient Utilization and Length of Stay

• Include as part of the health care team patient advocates or family members to support the patients’ health goals and advise practices. This extra support could decrease exacerbations in conditions leading to inpatient admissions.
• Help patients go through the screening and diagnosis processes, treatment courses, and may attend follow-ups with patients.
• Assess need for assistance with substance abuse addiction or mental illness even though these admissions are not counted in the measure.
• Manage patients with chronic diseases – Refer members with poorly managed health conditions to Aetna Better Health’s Special Needs Unit
  - Call the Special Needs Unit at 1-855-346-9828
• Increase the availability of outpatient appointments with your practice:
  - Keep a few open appointment slots each day to see patients the day they call if they feel they are experiencing a worsening in their condition
• Offer evening, weekend, or on-call hours to accommodate all patient schedules

Pennsylvania Performance Measures
The state of Pennsylvania also captures inpatient utilization data for specific chronic conditions patients can manage with their PCP on an ambulatory basis. These include:

• **Asthma in Children and Younger Adults Admission Rates:** The number of discharges for asthma in enrollees ages 2 years to 39 years
• **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) or Asthma in Older Adults Admission Rate:** The number of discharges for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma for Medicaid members 40 years and older
• **Diabetes Short-term Complications Admission Rate:** The number of discharges for diabetes short-term complications (ketoacidosis, hyperosmolarity or coma) in adults 18 years and older
• **Heart Failure Admission Rate:** The number of discharges for heart failure in adults 18 years and older

Using the above strategies for improvement you not only can improve rates for the IPU measure, but also for these state performance measures.