

STABLE Performance Measures: Considerations for Case Selection

The following considerations provide guidance for selecting cases for data collection; for example, exclusion criteria address circumstances, such as hospitalization, that could unfairly influence provider results.

1. Cases with complete initial assessments documented are desired, therefore, cases with a new lifetime diagnosis of unipolar depression or bipolar disorder are recommended. New presentations or episodes of cases with previously diagnosed conditions may also be selected if the patient has not been in active treatment ^(*) for the preceding 6 months, since the likelihood of a complete assessment increases with time.
 - a. Active treatment ^(*) in the previous 6 months, for the purposes of case exclusion, includes psychiatric OP care, medication management, or psychiatric hospitalization
 - b. Psychotherapy alone in the preceding 6 months will not exclude a case.
2. Cases with an assessment and treatment plan by the practice site clinician are desired so that attribution is clear. Exception: If a referral to a psychiatrist was made by a primary care clinician to verify the diagnosis and/or consult regarding medication management, the case can still be included providing that the psychiatric consultation reports are available in the chart to provide adequate documentation.
3. The patient's unipolar depression or bipolar disorder should be managed ^(*) by the out-patient practice site clinician for a period of at least 12 weeks following the initiation of treatment in order for sufficient time to assess the various clinical monitoring issues involved with the performance measures
 - a. Management ^(*) for the purposes of case selection includes at least medication management and follow-up monitoring visits
 - b. Cases from clinical sites using collaborative care models involving primary care and psychiatric clinicians may be included providing that the documentation is contained in the same case record/chart.
4. The patient should not have been hospitalized for any reason (medical or psychiatric) during the first 12 weeks of out-patient treatment for unipolar depression or bipolar disorder, as several of the initial assessment considerations and/or follow-up monitoring issues involved with the performance measures may have been performed in the hospital and are not available to the out-patient clinician.