

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has engaged Mathematica Policy Research to develop and test an electronic clinical quality measure: Quality of Life (QOL) Assessment for Patients Who Receive Any Intervention for Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The measure evaluates the percentage of patients 18 years or older who are receiving or recently received treatment for SUD and had baseline and follow-up QOL assessments.

To inform this measure, we are recruiting clinicians to interview about QOL assessments for SUD patients in daily practice. We will use the information gathered in the interviews to adjust the measure specifications, described below. We are looking for a range of clinical experience, including rural and urban practices, primary care and SUD specialty care, and clinicians with publicly and privately insured patients. We would also like to speak with clinicians who have used QOL assessments with their SUD patients.

The interviews will last an hour and will take place by telephone between late February and early March 2019. We hope to discuss:

- Current use of QOL assessment tools with SUD patients
- Frequency of QOL assessment
- Documentation of QOL scores
- Usefulness of QOL assessments
- Challenges conducting a follow-up assessment (for example, following up with patients who discontinue treatment)

Mathematica will provide an honoraria of \$200 to each participating clinician. We will not identify clinicians when we report the results of the interviews to CMS.

If you would like to help with this activity, please contact the measure’s testing lead, Theresa Feeley-Summerl, at TFeeley-Summerl@mathematica-mpr.com or (206) 539-5796 to set up the interview.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Draft specifications for the Measure of QOL Assessments for Patients Who Receive Any Intervention for a SUD

Denominator	Numerator	Exclusions
Patients 18 years or older who begin a new episode of treatment for a SUD	Patients who have received a baseline QOL assessment using a standardized and validated tool at the start of a new episode of SUD treatment and who have documentation of a follow-up QOL assessment score three to six months after treatment began	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients currently in inpatient treatment centers • Patients whose follow-up encounters for SUD treatment all took place less than three months after the first encounter