



The Academy

Integrating Behavioral
Health and Primary Care

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Atlas for Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care

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AHRQ's Focus on Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care (BH/PC)

- AHRQ published a comprehensive review ([“Integration of Mental Health/Substance Abuse and Primary Care”](#)) of the available evidence on integrated BH/PC in 2008
- AHRQ funded a research agenda conference grant in 2009 which resulted in an early [Lexicon draft](#)
- A paper on the [Future Research Needs for Integration](#) followed in 2010
- The Academy for Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care was initially funded in 2010



Lexicon for Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration

Concepts and Definitions Developed by Expert Consensus



- The Lexicon serves as the foundation for much of the Academy's work
- Goal of the Lexicon was to develop conceptual & definitional clarity
- Focused on what functionalities look like in practice (not just principles and values)



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What is Integrated Behavioral and Primary Care?

The care a patient experiences as a result of a team of primary care and behavioral health clinicians, working together with patients and families, using a systematic and cost-effective approach to provide patient-centered care for a defined population.

This care may address mental health and substance abuse conditions, health behaviors (including their contribution to chronic medical illnesses), life stressors and crises, stress-related physical symptoms, and ineffective patterns of health care utilization.



Methods

- Framework development
- Literature review and environment scan for measures
- Design and implementation of the Web-based tool



Elements of Integration Framework

- Two major components: functional domains and measurement constructs
- ***Functional Domains*** divide and organize the Integration Framework into high-level functions or actions.
- ***Measurement Constructs*** describe specific structures, processes, and outcomes observed in integrated behavioral health care.

Functional Domains

- 11 functional domains organized as follows:
 - Clinical functions necessary for integrated behavioral health care.
 - Enabling functions that support integrated care
 - Potential outcomes of integrated care

Measurement Constructs

- Specific structures, processes, and outcomes observed during integrated behavioral health care
- Structure and process constructs used to understand if a team is working collaboratively.
- Example: Patient Identification:
 - Structure construct: methods to identify and prioritize individuals for integrated care should be specified in an agreed-upon workflow,
 - Process construct: those agreed-upon methods should be used consistently.
 - Outcomes constructs: the potential results of implementing the structures and processes of integrated behavioral health care.

Integration Framework

- Clinical Functions
 - Care Team Expertise
 - Clinical Workflow
 - Patient Identification
 - Treatment Monitoring
 - Patient and Family Engagement



Integration Framework (Cont.)

- Enabling Functions
 - Leadership Alignment
 - Operational Reliability
 - Business Model Sustainability
 - Data Collection and Use



Integration Framework (cont.)

- Potential Outcomes of Integrated Care
 - Patient experience
 - Provider experience
 - System experience
 - Clinical outcomes
 - Financial outcomes



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the AHRQ website, including the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services logo and the AHRQ logo. Below this is the 'The Academy' header with the tagline 'Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care'. A search bar and social media links are visible. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About Us', 'Research', 'Education & Workforce', 'Policy & Financing', 'Lexicon', 'Clinical & Community', 'Health IT', 'Resources', and 'Collaboration'. The 'Resources' menu is expanded to show 'IBHC Measures Atlas', 'Expert Insight', 'Latest News', 'News Archives', 'Guidelines', 'Tools', 'Organizations', 'Evidence-Based Practices', 'Videos', and 'Webinars'. Below this, a sub-menu for 'IBHC Measures Atlas' lists 'Find a Measure', 'What is IBHC?', 'Integration Framework', 'Overview of Measures', 'Guide to Using the IBHC Measures Atlas', and 'Methodological Details'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Academy Home » Resources » IBHC Measures Atlas'. The main heading is 'Atlas of Integrated Behavioral Health Care Quality Measures'. A list of links includes 'Purpose', 'Intended Audience', 'Scope of the IBHC Measures Atlas', 'Quick Start Guide', and 'About the Atlas'. The 'Purpose' section contains two paragraphs of text.

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Atlas of Integrated Behavioral Health Care Quality Measures

- [Purpose](#)
- [Intended Audience](#)
- [Scope of the IBHC Measures Atlas](#)
- [Quick Start Guide](#)
- [About the Atlas](#)

Purpose

Integrated behavioral health care is an emerging field with the potential to improve health outcomes for patients and health care delivery within practices. Integrated behavioral health care can systematically enhance a primary care practice's ability to effectively address behavioral health issues that naturally emerge in the primary care, prevent fragmentation between behavioral health and medical care, and create effective relationships with mental health specialists outside the primary care setting.

As greater numbers of primary care practices and health systems begin to design and implement integrated behavioral health services, there is a growing need for quality measures that are rigorous and appropriate to the specific characteristics

IBHC Measures Atlas: Search for Measures

The screenshot shows the top portion of the website. At the top is the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services logo and the URL www.hhs.gov. Below that is the AHRQ logo with the text "Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality" and "Advancing Excellence in Health Care". The main header features "The Academy" logo and the tagline "Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care". A search bar is located to the right of the Academy logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with items: Home, About Us, Research, Education & Workforce, Policy & Financing, Lexicon, Clinical & Community, Health IT, Resources, and Collaboration. A secondary menu below that includes: IBHC Measures Atlas, Expert Insight, Latest News, News Archives, Guidelines, Tools, Organizations, Evidence-Based Practices, and Videos. The "Find a Measure" link is highlighted in blue. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Academy Home » Resources » IBHC Measures Atlas » Find a Measure.

Find a Measure

There are three ways to find core measures in the *IBHC Measures Atlas*.

- (1) [By measure](#): If you already know the measure you are looking for or you would like to see a listing of all of measures available in the *IBHC Measures Atlas*.
- (2) [By functional domain](#): If you know the domain you are interested in measuring (e.g., care team expertise, patient satisfaction).
- (3) [Guide me to a measure](#): If you would like a recommendation for measures based on your measurement goals.

For additional measures that apply to a specific population or condition or have a few relevant items within a lengthy instrument, go to "[Overview of Measures – Additional Measures](#)"

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