

Provider Tip Sheet

What is HEDIS®?

HEDIS® (Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set) is a widely used set of performance measures in the managed care industry, developed and maintained by NCQA. HEDIS® measures results and drives improvement efforts surrounding best practices.

What is the HEDIS® APP measure looking at?

The percentage of children and adolescents aged 1 – 17 with a new prescription for an antipsychotic medication that had documentation of psychosocial care as their first-line treatment.

Why is the HEDIS® APP measure important?

Antipsychotic medications may be effective treatment for a narrowly defined set of psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents. However, they are often prescribed for nonpsychotic conditions for which psychosocial interventions are considered first line treatment. Safer first-line psychosocial interventions may be underutilized. Children and adolescents may unnecessarily incur the risks associated with antipsychotic medications.

Who is included in the measure?

- Members dispensed their first antipsychotic medication
- Members aged 1 – 17 covered under Commercial or Medicaid LOB

Which Members are excluded?

- Members with at least one inpatient encounter or 2 outpatient encounters with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar, other psychotic disorder, autism or other developmental disorder.
- Members using hospice services at any time during the year.

When does the Member ‘pass’ the measure?

When there is documentation of psychosocial care in the 121-day period from 90 days prior through 30 days after the medication is dispensed.

What can providers do to help improve HEDIS® APP rates?

- When prescribed, antipsychotic medications should be part of a comprehensive, multi-modal plan for coordinated treatment that includes psychosocial care
- Psychosocial care, which includes behavioral interventions, psychological therapies and skills training, among others, is the recommended first-line treatment option for children and adolescents diagnosed with nonpsychotic conditions such as attention-deficit disorder and disruptive behaviors
- Periodically review the ongoing need for continued therapy with antipsychotic medications
- Assess the need for Case Management and refer if necessary
- Ensure progress notes are complete and accurate

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