

Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP)

Dear Parkland Community Health Plan Participating Provider,

As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing the quality of care and health outcomes for our members, we are reaching out to guide on improving the performance of the **Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP)**, a key component of the **Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)** metrics. This measure is designed to assess the percentage of children and adolescents age 1-17 who had a new prescription for an antipsychotic medication and had documentation of psychosocial care as first-line treatment.

To support you in meeting this critical metric, we strongly encourage all providers to implement the following best practices, which are aimed at improving APP performance and, more importantly, ensuring the delivery of optimal care for your patients.

Best Practices for Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP)

1. **Coordinate** with a mental health professional to complete a thorough evaluation of child/adolescent patients who are taking antipsychotic medication, to ensure that all medications are addressing current symptoms for the patient's ongoing stability and recovery.
2. **Monitor** prescribed antipsychotics closely as they are more at risk for serious health concerns, including weight gain, extrapyramidal side effects, hyperprolactinemia, and some metabolic effects.
3. **Document** conditions properly, excluding patients from the measure with an appropriate diagnosis code on the claim.
4. **Utilize outreach** to refer members for outpatient support as appropriate.
5. **Educate parents and guardians** of the increased side effect burden of multiple concurrent antipsychotics on children's health, which has implications for future physical health concerns.

Why This Matters

Improving performance on the **APP measure** matters because it ensures that children and adolescents are not treated with powerful antipsychotic drugs before trying safer, first-line psychosocial therapies. This helps protect children and adolescents from unnecessary and potentially harmful side effects while promoting a more effective and holistic standard of care.

Next Steps for Providers

- **Review** and ensure that progress notes are completed and accurate.
- **Explain the importance** on periodically reviewing the ongoing need for continued therapy.
- **Share** these best practices with your care teams to enhance awareness and improve adherence to the guidelines.

The APP Tip Sheet is attached for your reference. This resource provides additional details and actionable steps to help guide your practice in improving care and meeting the **APP HEDIS** measure.

If you have any questions or require additional resources, please do not hesitate to contact **Jeniffer Gonzalez** at Jeniffer.Gonzalez@phhs.org or visit our Provider Portal for further assistance.

Thank you for your dedication to providing high-quality care to our members. By working together, we can continue to positively impact maternal and child health throughout our community.

Sincerely,
PCHP Provider Relations

Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics | APP

Did you know?

Nearly 5% of Parkland Community Health Plan members had psychosocial care as first-line treatment before being prescribed an antipsychotic medication in 2023.



Measure Description & Rate Reported

The percentage of children and adolescents age 1-17 who had a new prescription for an antipsychotic medication and had documentation of psychosocial care as first-line treatment.

APP Measurement Period

January 1 – December 1 of the measurement year.

How can you improve your performance?

- Clearly document psychosocial care for members as a first-line treatment.
- Refer members for outpatient support as appropriate.

Coding

Ambulatory Medications*

- Miscellaneous antipsychotic agents
- Phenothiazine antipsychotics
- Thioxanthenes
- Long-acting injections

Antipsychotic Combination Medications

- Psychotherapeutic combinations

Psychosocial Care

CPT: 90832, 90833, 90834, 90836, 90837, 90838, 90839, 90840, 90845, 90846, 90847, 90849, 90853, 90875, 90876, 90880

HCPCS: G0176, G0177, G0409, G0410, G0411 H0004, H0035, H0036, H0037, H0038, H0039, H0040, H2000, H2001, H2011, H2012, H2013, H2014, H2017, H2018, H2019, H2020, S0201, S9480, S9484, S9485

SNOMED CT: 166001, 1555005, 2619005, 3518004, 5694008

**Additional medication lists are available upon request from the Parkland Community Health Plan Quality Department.*