Title: Use of Multiple Concurrent Antipsychotics in Children and Adolescents (APC)

CMS ID: PP7

NQF #: N/A

Source(s)


Measure Domain

Patient Safety: Process

Brief Abstract

Description

This measure is used to assess the percentage of children and adolescents 1 to 17 years of age who were on two or more concurrent antipsychotic medications.

Rationale

Antipsychotic prescribing for children has increased rapidly in recent decades, driven by new prescriptions and by longer duration of use (Patten, Waheed, & Bresee, 2012). The frequency of prescribing antipsychotics among youth increased almost fivefold from 1996 to 2002, from 8.6 per 1,000 children to 39.4 per 1,000 (Cooper et al., 2006). Although some evidence supports the efficacy of antipsychotics in youth for certain narrowly defined conditions, less is known about the safety and effectiveness of antipsychotic prescribing patterns in community use (e.g., combinations of medications, off-label prescribing, dosing outside of recommended ranges).

Both the efficacy and side effects of antipsychotic medications vary by age. Children and adolescents prescribed antipsychotics are more at risk for serious health concerns, including weight gain, extrapyramidal side effects, hyperprolactinemia and some metabolic effects (Correll, Kratochvil, & March, 2011). This suggests that use of multiple concurrent antipsychotics may pose differing risks for children and adolescents compared with adults. While there is no research on long-term effects of multiple concurrent antipsychotics on children's health, the increased side effect burden of certain antipsychotic medications for youth has implications for future physical health concerns including obesity and diabetes. Girls treated with certain antipsychotics may also be at increased risk for gynecological problems (Talib & Alderman, 2013) and osteoporosis (Cohen et al., 2012). Risks of multiple
concurrent antipsychotics, compared with monotherapy, have not been systematically investigated; existing evidence appears largely in case reports (Safer, Zito, & DosReis, 2003). In general, the field also lacks high-quality studies of side effects associated with the use of multiple concurrent antipsychotic medications in adults (Lochmann van Bennekom, Gijsman, & Zitman, 2013).

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) (2011) recommends that clinicians avoid the simultaneous use of multiple concurrent antipsychotic medications for children and adolescents.

Evidence for Rationale


Primary Health Components

Antipsychotic medications; children; adolescents
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 Denominator Description

Children and adolescents age 1 to 17 years as of December 31 of the measurement year with 90 days of continuous antipsychotic medication treatment during the measurement year.

See the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field.

Numerator Description

Members on two or more concurrent antipsychotic medications for at least 90 consecutive days during the measurement year.

See the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field.

Evidence Supporting the Measure

Type of Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality for the Measure

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical research evidence
- A formal consensus procedure, involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, public health and organizational sciences
- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Extent of Measure Testing

All HEDIS measures undergo systematic assessment of face validity with review by measurement advisory panels, expert panels, a formal public comment process and approval by the National Committee for Quality Assurance's (NCQA's) Committee on Performance Measurement and Board of Directors. Where applicable, measures also are assessed for construct validity using the Pearson correlation test. All measures undergo formal reliability testing of the performance measure score using beta-binomial statistical analysis.

Refer to the references listed below for further information.

Evidence for Extent of Measure Testing

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Data Collection for the Measure

Case Finding Period

The measurement year

Denominator Sampling Frame

Patients associated with provider

Denominator (Index) Event or Characteristic

Patient/Individual (Consumer) Characteristic

Therapeutic Intervention

Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions/Exceptions

Inclusions

Children and adolescents age 1 to 17 years as of December 31 of the measurement year with 90 days of continuous antipsychotic medication treatment during the measurement year

- Identify patients in the specified age range who were dispensed an antipsychotic medication during the measurement year. Refer to Table for Measure ID APC (http://www.ncqa.org/hedis-quality-measurement/hedis-measures/hedis-2018/hedis-2018-ndc-license/hedis-2018-final-ndc-lists).
- For each patient, identify all antipsychotic medication dispensing events (prescriptions) during the measurement year.
- For each patient, identify those with greater than or equal to 90 consecutive treatment days.

Exclusions

Unspecified

Exceptions

Unspecified
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Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Patients on two or more concurrent antipsychotic medications for at least 90 consecutive days during the measurement year

Exclusions

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

Scoring

Rate/Proportion

Interpretation of Score

Desired value is a lower score

Risk Adjustment

No