Follow-up care for children prescribed ADHD medications

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common behavioral disorders affecting children. Ten percent of American children have been diagnosed with ADHD. Primary symptoms include hyperactivity, impulsiveness, and an inability to sustain attention or concentration.

Measure

The percentage of children 6 to 12 years of age with newly prescribed attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication that have at least three follow-up care visits within a 10-month period, one of which is within 30 days of when the first ADHD medication was dispensed. Two rates are reported.

1. **Initiation Phase:** The percentage of members 6–12 years of age as of the Index Prescription Start Date (IPSD) with an ambulatory prescription dispensed for ADHD medication, which had one follow-up visit with practitioner with prescribing authority during the 30-day Initiation Phase.

2. **Continuation and Maintenance Phase:** The percentage of members 6–12 years of age as of the IPSD with an ambulatory prescription dispensed for ADHD medication, who remained on the medication for at least 210 days and who, in addition to the visit in the Initiation Phase, had at least two follow-up visits with a practitioner within 270 days (9 months) after the Initiation Phase ended.

What to look for:

Children who have been recently dispensed an ADHD medication during an outpatient, intensive outpatient, or partial hospitalization follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority.

**ADHD Medication List:**

- Amphetamine-dextroamphetamine
- Methamphetamine
- Atomoxetine
- Methylphenidate
- Dexmethylphenidate
- Clonidine
- Dextroamphetamine
- Guanfacine
- Lisdexamfetamine
- Atomoxetine

**Exclusions:**

Patients who have had an acute inpatient encounter with a mental health diagnosis, narcolepsy, or substance abuse during the 300 days after initial dispensing of the ADHD medication.

This measurement comes from claims only.
Tips for provider when talking to the patient:*4

- Explain to parents/caregivers how it is important that these children be monitored by the provider who prescribed and evaluated the medication(s).
- Ensure that the patient receives a follow-up visit within 30 days of a new prescription.
- Ensure that the patient receives at least two more follow-up visits within nine months to make sure the treatment is working properly.

Source

1 HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

* This information is from current medical literature and provided to you solely for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice and is not intended for use in medical diagnosis or treatment.