

Guidelines for HEDIS Effectiveness of Care Measures

Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication



Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)

HEDIS is a set of standardized performance measures developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) which allows comparison across health plans. Through HEDIS, NCQA holds Superior HealthPlan accountable for the timeliness and quality of healthcare services delivered to its diverse membership.

The HEDIS measure *Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication* monitors follow-up visits for patients 6-12 years old, who have been prescribed Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medications.

Target Population

Ambetter from Superior HealthPlan, CHIP and Medicaid (STAR, STAR Health, STAR Kids) members 6-12 years old, who have been prescribed ADHD medications.

Description of Measure

The measure breaks down the prescribing of medications used to treat ADHD into two phases:

1. **Initiation Phase:** The member should be seen when the first initial prescription is written and must be seen again for a follow-up visit within the first 30 days of starting the medication.
2. **Continuation and Maintenance Phase:** After the initiation phase has passed, the member should be seen at least twice by a practitioner with prescribing authority, within 9 months (270 days) after the initiation phase.

Clinical Significance

ADHD medications often need to be started at a low dose and titrated up to the lowest effective dose. Children need routine follow-up appointments for the physician to evaluate response to therapy and make any necessary changes in a timely manner.

Suggested Action Items

In order to encourage return visits to refill their prescriptions, Superior recommends providers schedule follow-up visits and write the following initial prescription for members on ADHD medications:

1. **Initiation Phase:** Recommend writing the initial ADHD medication prescription for a 14-day supply only, to ensure member will return for a follow-up visit within 30 days.
2. **Continuation and Maintenance Phase:** Recommend scheduling follow-up appointments at three months and six months from the initial visit. This will ensure the additional two follow-up visits within the 9-month period are made.

Additional Resources

Superior follows specific formularies for each product line. Formularies can be found by visiting:

- **Ambetter:** Ambetter.SuperiorHealthPlan.com/provider-resources/pharmacy/
- **Medicaid:** txvendordrug.com/formulary
 - *Please note: Superior follows the Texas Vendor Drug Program formulary for Medicaid members.*