

Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common mental disorders in children, affecting approximately 6.1 million children 2-17 years of age in the US as of 2016.^{1,2} It is a chronic condition that can negatively impact children's academic achievement, social interactions, and overall well-being. The 2019 American Academy of Pediatrics guideline strongly recommends combining behavioral therapy with medication to treat children ages 6 years and older.³ Along with early detection and proper patient care, appropriate follow-up visits can lead to improved medication management and control of ADHD symptoms. An important HEDIS measure assesses follow-up care for children newly prescribed ADHD medications within 30 days and 9 months of prescription dispensing.⁴

What should I know about the HEDIS measure?

This measure assesses the percentage of patients between 6 and 12 years of age who were newly prescribed an ADHD medication and received a follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority within 30 days of when the medication was first dispensed and at least two additional visits within the subsequent 9 months. A higher percentage indicates better performance. Two rates measured⁴:

- **Initiation phase:** Assesses children 6 to 12 years of age who had one follow-up care visit with a provider within the first 30 days of a newly prescribed ADHD medication.
- **Continuation and Maintenance (C&M) phase:** Assesses children 6 to 12 years of age who remained on the prescribed ADHD medication for at least 210 days (7 months) and had at least 2 follow-up visits with a provider within the 270 days (9 months) following the initiation phase.

Patients are excluded from the measure if they are in hospice, have an acute inpatient encounter or discharge with a principal mental health diagnosis, or have a history of narcolepsy.

Which medications are included in this measure?

Medication Class	Medication Name
<i>CNS stimulants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphetamine-dextroamphetamine • Dexmethylphenidate • Dextroamphetamine
<i>Alpha-2 receptor agonists</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonidine
<i>Miscellaneous ADHD medications</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomoxetine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisdexamfetamine • Methylphenidate • Methamphetamine • Guanfacine

How can I help improve performance?

- Schedule follow-up appointments (within first 30 days, and two follow-up visits within nine months) to ensure proper medication management and control of ADHD symptoms.
- Identify and code follow-up visits correctly.

Qualifying Follow-Ups	Code Examples
Outpatient visit	CPT: 98960, 98961, 99078 or HCPCS: G0463, H0002, T1015
Observation visit	CPT: 99217, 99218, 99219, 99220
Health and behavior assessment/intervention	CPT: 96150, 96151, 96152, 96153
Intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization	HCPCS: G0410, H0035, S0201, S9480
Community mental health center visit	CPT: 90791, 90792, 90832, 90833 and POS: 53
A telehealth visit	CPT: 90791, 90792, 90832, 90833 and POS: 02
A telephone visit	CPT: 98966, 98967, 98968, 99441
An e-visit or virtual check-in*	CPT: 98969, 98970, 98971 or HCPCS: G0071, G2010, G2012

CPT=Current Procedural Terminology; HCPCS = Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System; POS=Place of Service

*Only applicable to C&M phase; one of two visits during the 9 months after the initiation phase (days 31-300) may be an e-visit or virtual check-in.

References

1. Data and Statistics. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated November 16, 2020. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/data.html>. Accessed January 28, 2021.
2. Data and Statistics on Children's Mental Health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated June 15, 2020. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/data.html>. Accessed January 28, 2021.
3. Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents. American Academy of Pediatrics. *Pediatrics*. 2019;144[4]:e20192528; doi:10.1542/peds.2019-2528.
4. HEDIS MY 2020 & 2021, Volume 2. National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) *Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (ADD)*.

Medi-Cal Educational Bulletins are available through the CalOptima website at www.caloptima.org: Providers-Medi-Cal Pharmacy Resources

The CalOptima Approved Drug List is available on our website: www.caloptima.org
and for PDA download at www.epocrates.com