



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

Please note that the information offered in this flyer is based on Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) technical specifications. It is not meant to replace your clinical judgment.

What is the APP measure?

Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP) is one of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS measures. APP evaluates if psychotherapy is being utilized appropriately, in conjunction with medication, as a primary treatment for those prescribed antipsychotics for nonpsychotic conditions.¹

Who is included in the APP measure?

Children and adolescents 1–17 years old who had a new prescription for an antipsychotic medication

How does a patient become compliant?

Children and adolescents 1–17 years old who had a new prescription for an antipsychotic medication **and** had documentation of psychosocial care as first-line treatment

Exclusions

- Patients in hospice or using hospice services
- Patients with at least one acute inpatient encounter **or** two visits in an outpatient, intensive outpatient or partial hospitalization setting on different dates of service with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, other psychotic disorder, autism or other developmental disorder during the measurement year

Measure best practices

- Use correct coding and submit claims in a timely manner.
- Properly document conditions excluding patients from the measure with an appropriate diagnosis code on a claim.
- Refer patients to a behavioral health provider for individual and/or group therapy.
- Educate patients on the importance of psychosocial care and its benefits on mental health.
- Educate parents on local community resources and what should be done in a crisis event.

APP coding

This list is not comprehensive. Other NCQA codes can be used to identify services included in this measure.

Code type	Code	Description
CPT	90832–90834; 90836–90840; 90845–90847; 90849; 90853; 90875–90876; 90880	Psychosocial care
HCPCS	G0176-G0177, G0409-G0411, H0004, H0035-H0040, H2000-H2001, H2011-H2014, H2017-H2020, S0201, S9480, S9484-S9485	Psychosocial care

¹National Committee for Quality Assurance. (2021, November 29). *Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP)*. Retrieved from NCQA.org: <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/use-of-first-line-psychosocial-care-for-children-and-adolescents-on-anti-psychotics/>

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