1. To determine how patient-level factors, such as age, race, sex, BMI, disease severity, or attitude about consent from parent/guardian influence the physician’s decision to prescribe antipsychotics in children.

2. To determine how physician characteristics, such as specialization or mental health volume influence physician’s decision to prescribe atypical antipsychotics in children.

**RESULTS**

- Patients’ foster status, parental concern and BMI were not significant predictors.
- PCPs and psychiatrists differed with respect to the influence of beliefs in evidence for use, and patient WBC counts.
- Up to 19% of physicians reported being unaware of evidence supporting AP use. More than 50% of patient profiles were also recommended multiple APs.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- MCOs should consider providing education programs to physicians regarding treatment guidelines, evidence for use of APs, importance of patients’ BMI levels and metabolic monitoring.
- Educating physicians on the evidence, providing or facilitating appropriate clinical use of APs and limiting unwanted AP polypharmacy may lead to lower costs for the patients and MCOs.