

CATEGORY: RESEARCH

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ANTIPSYCHOTIC QUALITY MEASURES: METABOLIC MONITORING IN CHILDREN TAKING ANTIPSYCHOTICS

Background:

While antipsychotics (APs) offer the potential for effective treatment of psychiatric disorders in children, they can also increase the risk for developing metabolic and physical complications. Monitoring of metabolic indices such as glucose level and cholesterol level is important to ensure the appropriate management of children taking APs. In 2013, the National Collaborative for Innovation in Quality Measurement (NCINQ) proposed a measure of metabolic monitoring for children taking APs be considered for use in Medicaid and CHIP programs.

Objectives:

To evaluate how the Medicaid program performs on the NCINQ proposed quality measure for metabolic monitoring of children on APs and to determine whether DUR activities need to be implemented to improve performance on this measure.

Methodology:

A retrospective analysis using Medicaid claims data for July 2013 thru June 2014 and the measure specifications provided by NCINQ in their April 2013 call for public feedback on proposed new measures. Denominator was beneficiaries ages 0 and 21 as of June 30 2014, continuously enrolled 3+ months and taking any antipsychotic medication. Numerators were beneficiaries having 1+ cholesterol tests, 1+ test blood glucose test, and having both types of tests during the measurement year.

Results:

For the overall population, 30% had a blood glucose test, 14% had a cholesterol test, and only 13% had both tests. Rates did not differ among the FFS and the two managed care plans. Rates increased with age. These rates are around the 25th percentile based on NCINQ results from 11 states using 2008 data.

Conclusions/Implications:

Since this is an important quality of care measure being developed by CMS, it was determined that action is needed to improve our performance. Initial plans are to initiate an education program using articles in state journals and targeted mailings to prescribers with low performance on this measure. This intervention will be evaluated after 6 months.