

**ANTIPSYCHOTIC QUALITY MEASURE INITIATIVE:  
METABOLIC MONITORING IN CHILDREN TAKING ANTIPSYCHOTICS  
Mailings Conducted April 2015 – November 2015**

**BACKGROUND**

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) established the Pediatric Quality Measures Program (PQMP), an initiative funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to support the development of new measures in child health care. The National Collaborative for Innovation in Quality Measurement (NCINQ) is the group responsible for developing and proposing measures for inclusion in the Child Core Set used in Medicaid programs.

***NCINQ Proposed Measure for inclusion in Child Core Set: Metabolic Screening for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics.*** The percentage of children 0 to 20 years of age taking any antipsychotic medication who had metabolic screening documented during the measurement year.

At the November 2014 DUR Board Meeting, MS-DUR presented an analysis that showed that during the period July 2013 to June 2014 only 13% of children and adolescents enrolled in Mississippi Medicaid taking antipsychotic medications had claims documenting blood glucose and cholesterol tests had been performed during the observation year. During the February 2015 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that MS-DUR initiate an educational intervention to notify prescribers of the need for metabolic monitoring.

Each month, beneficiaries under the age of 21 were identified who had a prescription filled for an antipsychotic. Medical claims were examined for these beneficiaries to determine whether metabolic monitoring had been documented within the 12 months prior to the prescription being filled.

**MAILING**

Exception monitoring was run for the Metabolic Monitoring Quality Measure each month. Providers were prioritized for mailings each month based on the number of beneficiaries with exceptions. Providers were only contacted once every three months. The following number of providers received letters each month.

Month	# of Providers Contacted
April 2015	100
May 2015	43
June 2015	0
July 2015	79
August 2015	0
September 2015	100
October 2015	83
November 2015	19

DATE  
 MD\_NAME,  
 MD\_ADDRESS  
 MD\_ADDRESS, MS MD\_ZIP

Dear Dr.MD\_NAME,

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) Office of Pharmacy is committed to improving the quality of care provided to Mississippi Medicaid beneficiaries. DOM’s Drug Utilization Review or DUR Board, comprised of twelve physicians and pharmacists from around the state, has recommended several initiatives addressing quality issues regarding the treatment of children with mental health illnesses. This letter is being sent as part of our initiative regarding metabolic monitoring for children taking antipsychotics.

**THE GOAL**

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry practice parameters recommend careful monitoring of metabolic side effects for children taking antipsychotics. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed the following quality measure for consideration for use in Medicaid programs: *The percentage of beneficiaries below the age of 21 years on antipsychotics who are being monitored for glucose and lipid levels.* A recent analysis found that of the children in Mississippi Medicaid taking antipsychotics, only 30% received a blood glucose test, 14% received a lipid test and 13% received both tests during the measurement year. These results indicate that the Mississippi DOM is currently performing at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for state Medicaid programs on this measure.

**YOUR SCORE**

Analysis of Medicaid children taking antipsychotics during the previous year showed:

Physician’s name	Total number of patients	Patients who received metabolic screening
MD_NAME	MD_DENOM	Glucose: MD_NUM_GL MD_GL_PER Lipid: MD_NUM_LP MD_LP_PER Both: MD_NUM_BT MD_BT_PER
ALL PRESCRIBERS	ALL_DENOM	Glucose: ALL_NUM_GL ALL_GL_PER Lipid: ALL_NUM_LP ALL_LP_PER Both: ALL_NUM_BT ALL_BT_PER

**WHAT WE ASK OF YOU?**

Given the documented metabolic risks of antipsychotic medications, the monitoring of metabolic indices is important to ensure appropriate management of side effect risks, especially in children and adolescents. For your easy reference, are included is a list of your patients currently taking antipsychotics with no medical claims for metabolic screening during the previous year. We encourage that you will have someone in your office attach these labels to these patient charts as a reminder to order metabolic tests at the next patient visit

Sincerely,

Benjamin F. Banahan, III, Ph.D.  
 Project Director  
 MS-DUR

Judith P. Clark, R.Ph, B.S. Pharmacy  
 Director, Office of Pharmacy  
 Division of Medicaid