

**ANTIPSYCHOTIC USE IN INDIVIDUALS WITH  
INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN MISSISSIPPI MEDICAID  
Mailed December 2017 – February 2018**

**BACKGROUND**

Antipsychotics frequently are prescribed to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Diagnosing psychiatric problems in people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can be a challenge. These medications can be used to not only treat psychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia, but also may be used to treat problem behaviors in these individuals. Analysis indicated almost one-fourth of beneficiaries diagnosed with IDD in Mississippi Medicaid are being treated with antipsychotics. Of those being treated with antipsychotics, approximately 32% are being treated with antipsychotics without a primary indication for use.

At the November 2017 DUR Board meeting education materials regarding the use of antipsychotics in the IDD population were approved for distribution.

**MAILING**

MS-DUR extracted all prescriptions for antipsychotics filled for beneficiaries with a diagnosis of IDD between January 1, 2017 and November 30, 2017 and paid for by fee-for-service (FFS), United Healthcare, or Magnolia. Letters were sent to any prescriber identified as writing these prescriptions. A total of 1069 prescribers were identified as being associated with these prescriptions. Each prescriber was mailed the attached letter.



November 20, 2017

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

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING  
ANTIPSYCHOTIC USE IN INDIVIDUALS WITH  
INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES (IDD)**

Dear Medicaid Provider:

Antipsychotics frequently are prescribed to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Diagnosing psychiatric problems in people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can be a challenge. These medications can be used to not only treat psychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia, but also may be used to treat problem behaviors in these individuals. At a recent Division of Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board meeting, Dr. Craig Escude, DUR Board Chair and Medical Director at Hudspeth Regional Center, indicated that people with IDD are often treated with psychotropic medications for behavioral issues which actually may be a form of communication of a medical issue rather than a behavioral health issue.

At the November 2017 DUR Board meeting the enclosed education materials regarding the use of antipsychotics in the IDD population were approved. You have been identified as a provider who has recently prescribed an antipsychotic to an individual with IDD. We hope this information will be of value in your practice.

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Eric Pittman, PharmD  
Clinical Director  
MS-DUR

Terri R. Kirby, RPh, CPM  
Director, Office of Pharmacy  
Division of Medicaid



