

2016

Clinical
quality corner



One of a series of tip sheets that look at key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures

Follow-up care for children prescribed ADHD medication

This measure examines the percentage of children ages 6 through 12 who filled a new* prescription for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication and who were in one of the following phases:

- **Initiation phase.** One follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority during the first 30 days after the medication was dispensed
- **Continuation and maintenance phase.** At least two additional follow-up visits within the 270 days (or nine months) following the initiation phase for children who remained on the medication

**A new prescription is defined as not having filled a prescription for ADHD medication in the previous four months.*

Exclusion (optional): Children with a diagnosis of narcolepsy at any time during their history can be excluded from this measure.

Improving HEDIS® scores*

- **Educate** the parent on the importance of the follow-up visit, especially in the first 10 months of treatment.
 - Stress the importance of proper sleep, diet and exercise.
 - Encourage a diet free of food additives. Since the role of food preservatives and additives in ADHD is still unclear, the American Academy of Pediatrics says it's reasonable to avoid these substances.
 - Encourage ongoing communication between the child, parent, teachers, and health care providers. Watch for changes in behavior, eating or sleeping. If the child is older and communicative, you may want to direct some questions to the child.
- **Ensure** that the parent leaves the provider's office with a card indicating the next appointment date.

**HEDIS, which stands for Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.*

Tip:

For the first 10 months of treatment and until the child is stabilized on a therapeutic level of ADHD medications, do not offer refills or “predate” prescriptions.

ADHD medications

Description	Prescriptions
CNS stimulants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amphetamine-dextroamphetamine• Dexmethylphenidate• Dextroamphetamine• Lisdexamfetamine• Methamphetamine• Methylphenidate
Alpha 2 receptor agonists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clonidine• Guanfacine
Miscellaneous ADHD medications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomoxetine