

Best Practices for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotic Medications

Psychosocial care is recommended for children and adolescents who are prescribed antipsychotic medications.¹ These patients may need additional services to help support them as they work to manage their condition. The following recommendations are based on the American Academy for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)¹ and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS® 2020 specification.

How You Can Help

The NCQA measures the percent of children and adolescents who attend a psychosocial care appointment at least 90 days before being prescribed medication, or within 30 days of starting an initial prescription if there's an urgent need for medication. Here are some examples of psychosocial care:

- Behavioral Health Services
- Crisis intervention services
- Peer services
- Partial Hospitalization
- Activity Therapy
- Training and educational services related to care/treatment

The AACAP recommends Psychosocial care for children and adolescents prescribed antipsychotic medication to treat these conditions:²

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ADHD
- Conduct related symptoms
- Schizophrenia
- Tourette's Syndrome

Referring to a Mental Health Professional

If you need to refer your patient to a behavioral health specialist or need to request coordination of care, please call the number on the back of the patient's health plan ID card or search liveandworkwell.com.

Resources

- **Tools and information about behavioral health issues:** Providerexpress.com > Clinical Resources > Behavioral Health Toolkit for Medical Providers.
- **Patient education information:** Liveandworkwell.com – use access code “clinician.” See “Mind & Body” at the top, scroll down to find the links to topics.

Questions

If you have questions, please call the number on the patient's health plan ID card.

¹ www.jaacap.org: Molly Finnerty, MD, Sheree Neese-Todd, MA, Riti Pritam, MA, MRP, Emily Leckman-Westin, PhD, Scott Bilder, PhD, Sepheer C. Byron, MHS, Sarah Hudson Scholle, MPH, DrPH, Stephen Crystal, PhD, Mark Olsson, MD, MPH, J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2016;55(1):69–76.

² [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Practice parameter on the use of atypical antipsychotic medications in children and adolescents. http://www.aacap.org/App_Themes/AACAP/docs/practice_parameters/Atypical_Antipsychotic_Medications_Web.pdf](http://www.aacap.org/App_Themes/AACAP/docs/practice_parameters/Atypical_Antipsychotic_Medications_Web.pdf)

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