

2022 HEDIS Measure Tips



One in a series of tip sheets that look at key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures, commonly referred to as HEDIS® measures.

This measure applies to commercial members only.

Follow-up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (ADD)

Effectiveness of Care HEDIS® Measure*

HEDIS measure description

The percentage of children that were newly prescribed attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication who had at least **three** follow-up care visits within a 10-month period.

Note: "Newly prescribed" is defined as not having an ADHD medication dispensed in the previous four months.

Measure population (denominator)

Members 6 years of age (as of March 1 of the year prior) to 12 years of age (as of the last calendar day of February of the measurement year) who were newly prescribed attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication from March 1 of the prior year through the end of February in the current year.

Measure compliance (numerator)

Two rates are reported:

1. **Initiation phase:** **One** outpatient, observation, intensive outpatient or partial hospitalization follow-up visit with a provider with prescribing authority during the first **30 days** after the medication was dispensed.

Note: Only real-time Telehealth (video or telephone) visits meet criteria with acceptable coding.

2. **Continuation and maintenance phase:** Members compliant for initiation phase who remain on the medication for at least 210 of the 300 days since the medication dispensing event. At least **two** outpatient, intensive outpatient or partial hospitalization follow-up visits required with any provider within 270 days (9 months) after the initiation phase ended.

continued



Did you know?

- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder is one of the most common mental disorders affecting children.
- Increasing numbers of American children are being diagnosed with ADHD.
- When managed appropriately, medication for ADHD can control symptoms of hyperactivity, impulsiveness and inability to sustain concentration.

Note: Telehealth visits meet criteria with acceptable coding (only 1 of the 2 visits can be an e-visit or virtual check-in).

Exclusions

- Narcolepsy at any time during their history
- Members in hospice or using hospice services anytime during the measurement year
- Members deceased during measurement year

Helpful HEDIS hints

- **Educate** the parent on the importance of the follow-up visit, especially in the first 10 months of treatment.
 - Follow up appointments should occur once within the first 30 days of filling a new prescription and two additional visits in the following nine months.
 - Ensure a follow-up appointment is scheduled prior to leaving the office.
- **Discuss** the importance of proper sleep, diet and exercise. A diet free of food additives is important since the role of food preservatives and additives in ADHD is still unclear. The American Academy of Pediatrics (aap.org) suggests avoiding these substances.
- **Encourage** ongoing communication between the child, parent, teacher and health care providers. Watch for changes in behavior, eating or sleeping. If the child is older, you may want to direct questions to the child.
- **Plan** to see the child for face-to-face visits for medication refills until the child reaches a stabilized level and an optimal response is achieved.

Tips for coding

- Both visits during the continuation and maintenance phase (day 31 to day 300 after the medication was dispensed) may be telehealth visits with a provider. Only 1 of the 2 visits can be an e-visit, online assessment or virtual check-in.
 - CPT** codes for telephone visits are:
98966, 98967, 98968, 99441, 99442 and 99443

Resources

1. Visser, S.N., M.L. Danielson, R.H. Bitsko, J.R. Holbrook, M.D. Kogan, R.M. Ghandour, ... & S.J. Blumberg. 2013. "Trends in the parent-report of health care provider-diagnosed and medicated attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: United States, 2003-2011." *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 53(1), 34–46. [jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567\(13\)00594-7/abstract](http://jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567(13)00594-7/abstract)
2. American Psychological Association. 2022. "Children's Mental Health." apa.org/pi/families/children-mental-health
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2021. "Data and Statistics About ADHD" cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/data.html

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

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