



# Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (ADD)

## HEDIS measure overview

**Please note the information on this flyer is based on Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) technical specifications. It is not meant to replace your clinical judgment.**

Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (ADD) is one of the performance measures used to evaluate the care and services that practices provide. Research shows:

- The percentage of children 4–17 years old in the U.S. with an attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) diagnosis by a healthcare provider, as reported by parents, continues to increase.<sup>1</sup> ADHD diagnoses by a healthcare provider increased by 42% between 2003 and 2011.<sup>1</sup>
- Over the past decade, the number of children prescribed ADHD medications has increased substantially.<sup>2</sup> Medications can affect children differently. Healthcare providers should be aware of the changing patterns of ADHD in the U.S.

### What is the ADD measure?

The percentage of children who are newly prescribed ADHD medication who had at least three follow-up care visits within a 10-month period, one of which was within 30 days of when the first ADHD medication was dispensed. Two rates are reported.

#### 1. Initiation phase

The percentage of patients 6–12 years old with a prescription dispensed for ADHD medication and had one follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority during the 30-day initiation phase. This excludes patients with mental, behavioral or neurodevelopmental disorder acute inpatient stays that occur 30 days after ADHD medication is dispensed.

#### 2. Continuation and maintenance (C and M) phase

The percentage of patients 6–12 years old with a prescription dispensed for ADHD medication and remaining on the medication for at least 210 days (seven months) and who, in addition to the visit in the initiation phase, had at least two follow-up visits with a practitioner within 270 days (nine months) after the initiation phase ended. This excludes patients with mental, behavioral or neurodevelopmental disorder acute inpatient stays that occur 300 days (10 months) after ADHD medication is dispensed.



246902KY0623 (HUMP0246902)

## Who is included in the ADHD measure?

Patients 6–12 years old who are newly prescribed ADHD medication and who had a:

- New ADHD prescription filled based on the health plan's pharmacy claim data with no history of ADHD medications dispensed in the 120 days (four months) prior to the new prescription fill date
- Prescription dispensing date between March 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and the last calendar day of February of the measurement year

## Exclusions

- Patients in hospice or using hospice services
- Patients in acute inpatient stay
- Patients diagnosed with narcolepsy
- Patients who died during the measurement year

## Follow-up visit types that meet measure compliance

Patients can be seen via:

- An outpatient or telehealth visit, including those for behavioral health (BH) services
  - In a clinic
  - At home
  - At a community mental health center
- An outpatient or partial hospitalization stay including observation visits

**Note:** One of the two visits required during the C and M phase can be an e-visit or virtual check-in. These visit types are not allowed in the initiation phase.

## ADHD medications

Description	Prescription	
Central nervous system (CNS) stimulants	Dexmethylphenidate	Dextroamphetamine
	Lisdexamfetamine	Methylphenidate
	Methamphetamine	
Alpha-2 receptor agonists	Clonidine	Guanfacine
Miscellaneous ADHD medications	Atomoxetine	

## Measure best practices

- If prescribing a medication for ADHD, consider limiting the first prescription to a 30-day supply.
- When prescribing a new medication to the patient, schedule an initial follow-up appointment before the parent or guardian leaves the office.
- Advise the parent or guardian that a follow-up visit must occur within 30 days of starting the medication to evaluate if it is working as expected and to assess any adverse effects. Telehealth visits are acceptable for this follow-up visit.
- After the initial follow-up visit, schedule at least two more visits over the next nine months to check the child's progress.
- Continue to educate the patient and parent or guardian about the importance of medication adherence.

<sup>1</sup> [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/features/key-findings-adhd72013.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/features/key-findings-adhd72013.html)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/research.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/research.html)

## NCQA copyright notice and disclaimer

The HEDIS measure specifications were developed by and are owned by NCQA. The HEDIS measure specifications are not clinical guidelines and do not establish a standard of medical care. NCQA makes no representations, warranties, or endorsement about the quality of any organization or physician that uses or reports performance measures, and NCQA has no liability to anyone who relies on such measure specifications. NCQA holds a copyright in these materials and can rescind or alter these materials at any time. These materials may not be modified by anyone other than NCQA. Use of the Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS to make permitted adjustments of the materials does not constitute a modification. Any commercial use and/or internal or external reproduction, distribution and publication must be approved by NCQA and is subject to a license at the discretion of NCQA. Any use of the materials to identify records or calculate measure results, for example, requires a custom license and may necessitate certification pursuant to NCQA's Measure Certification Program. Reprinted with permission by NCQA. © <2023> NCQA, all rights reserved.

Limited proprietary coding is contained in the measure specifications for convenience. NCQA disclaims all liability for use or accuracy of any third-party code values contained in the specifications.

The full text of this notice and disclaimer is available here:

<https://apps.humana.com/Marketing/Documents.asp?q=qN9cvWvxD83ulyagkCLvaA%3d%3d>