



# Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP)

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

## What is the APP measure?

Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP) is one of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS measures. APP evaluates if psychotherapy is being utilized appropriately as a first-line treatment for those prescribed antipsychotics for nonpsychotic conditions.<sup>1</sup>

## Who is included in the APP measure?

Children and adolescents 1–17 years of age who had a new prescription for an antipsychotic medication

## How does a patient become compliant?

Children and adolescents 1–17 years of age who had a new prescription for an antipsychotic medication **and** had documentation of psychosocial care as first-line treatment

## Exclusions

- Patients in hospice or using hospice services
- Patients for whom first-line antipsychotic medications may be clinically appropriate: patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, other psychotic disorder, autism or other developmental disorder on at least two different dates of service during the measurement year
- Patients who died anytime during the measurement year

## Measure best practices

- Use correct coding and submit claims in a timely manner.
- Properly document conditions excluding patients from the measure with an appropriate diagnosis code on a claim.
- Refer patients to a behavioral health provider for individual and/or group therapy.
- Educate patients on the importance of psychosocial care and its benefits on mental health.
- Educate parents on local community resources and what should be done in a crisis event.

1. National Committee for Quality Assurance. (2025, January 7). *Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP)*. Retrieved from [www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/use-of-first-line-psychosocial-care-for-children-and-adolescents-on-anti-psychotics/](http://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/use-of-first-line-psychosocial-care-for-children-and-adolescents-on-anti-psychotics/).

## APP coding

This list is not comprehensive. Other NCQA codes can be used to identify services included in this measure.

Code type	Code	Description
CPT	90832–90834, 90836–90840, 90845–90847, 90849, 90853, 90875, 90876, 90880	Psychosocial care
HCPCS	G0176, G0177, G0409–G0411, H0004, H0035–H0040, H2000, H2001, H2011–H2014, H2017–H2020, S0201, S9480, S9484, S9485	Psychosocial care

Coding included is based on the NCQA Value Set, but each state’s fee schedule determines which codes are reimbursed. Please consult your respective state’s fee schedule for reimbursement information.

Information regarding inclusion, compliance and exclusions for this measure were sourced from the HEDIS Measurement Year 2024: Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans report. The coding information in this document is subject to changing requirements and should not be relied on as official coding or legal advice. All coding should be considered on a case-by-case basis and supported by medical necessity and appropriate documentation in the medical record.

## 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 are 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. © 2025 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://assets.humana.com/is/content/humana/NCQA copyright notice and disclaimerpdf](https://assets.humana.com/is/content/humana/NCQA%20copyright%20notice%20and%20disclaimer.pdf)