

Important Facts about:
HEDIS Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APP)

What is the Measure?

The percentage of 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 within 90 days of the medication start date.

Why This Measure is Important:

- There are health risks associated with antipsychotic medications. Strategies to minimize use of these medications, like psychosocial interventions, would decrease these risks. There is increased research supporting the use of psychosocial interventions as first line defense when patients present with symptoms. Many times antipsychotics are prescribed to minimize behavioral disturbances and psychosocial interventions are the recommended first line of treatment.

How can I improve my HEDIS scores?

1. **Educate your patients** on the importance of following up with a mental health professional.
2. **Refer the patient to a behavioral health provider** for individual, group, and/or family therapy to help monitor symptoms.
3. **Follow up** with the member/family to confirm they attended the group therapy appointment.

For More Information:

- Regarding Behavioral Health HEDIS measures contact the Behavioral Health Specialist at MDwise.
- If you have questions regarding a MDwise member, call Customer service at: **1-800-356-1204**.