



Department
of Health

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RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE

Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Children Related to the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act

October 21, 2019

Dear Medicaid Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the New York State (NYS) Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board's recommendation to require prior authorization for patients less than 21 years of age utilizing two or more, different, oral antipsychotic medications concurrently for greater than 90 days. Our records indicate that you have recently prescribed an oral antipsychotic medication to a patient less than 21 years of age, and therefore, we are providing you with advance notice that this DUR Board recommendation will be implemented in the Medicaid Fee-for-Service program on November 21, 2019.

The DUR Board review that resulted in the above recommendation, was done in concert with the Medicaid DUR Program, which ensures that outpatient prescription medications are appropriate, medically necessary, and not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. Additionally, the review addresses the enactment of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which is federal legislation that requires states to have in place a program to monitor and manage the appropriate use of antipsychotic medication by children enrolled in the Medicaid program.

Under the purview of the DUR Program, the NYS Medicaid DUR Board reviewed the use of antipsychotics in children less than 21 years of age within the Medicaid program. The report was presented by the clinical research staff from the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the September 2019 DUR Board meeting. This review was based on guidance provided by the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) in the *Clinical Advisory Regarding the Use of Atypical Antipsychotic Medication in Children and Adolescents*.¹ The DUR Program review focused on ensuring that 1) antipsychotic medications prescribed to children and adolescents were being prescribed according to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) product information, 2) that polypharmacy, defined as members receiving two or more different antipsychotic medications, was minimized, and 3) that metabolic monitoring was completed.

Project Training and Education for the Advancement of Children's Health (Project TEACH), funded by NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), provides consultation, education and training, and referral/linkage services to NYS pediatric primary care providers who care for children and adolescents with mental health disorders. Additionally, other prescribers who are providing ongoing treatment to children, such as child and adolescent psychiatrists, general psychiatrists, and psychiatric nurse practitioners, may request a second opinion through consultation. The services are free. Additional information is available at <https://projectteachny.org/>.

The DUR Program recognizes that safe, effective pharmacotherapy depends on the assessment of the patient's entire clinical profile. We are providing you with this advance notice and ask that you consider the DUR Board recommendation regarding the prescribing of antipsychotic medications to children <21 years of age.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

New York State Medicaid DUR Program
dur@health.ny.gov

¹NYSOMH Clinical advisory regarding the use of antipsychotic medications in children and adolescents.
https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/sga_advisory/advisory.html