



Department of Health

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RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE

Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Patients Less Than 21 Years of Age and Metabolic Monitoring

November 22, 2019

Dear Medicaid Provider:

The New York State (NYS) Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program retrospectively reviews the prescribing and dispensing of outpatient prescription medications to ensure that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and are not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. Under the purview of the DUR Program, the NYS Medicaid DUR Board reviewed the use of antipsychotic medications in children less than 21 years of age at the September 19, 2019 DUR Board meeting,

The DUR report was presented by the clinical research staff from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The report evaluated children less than 21 years of age who received an antipsychotic medication for greater than three months and assessed whether they had at least one diabetes and one cholesterol screening test during the one-year timeframe of the analysis. The evaluation found approximately 63% of children <21 years of age who received an antipsychotic medication for greater than three months did not have both a diabetes and cholesterol screening test.

Our review indicates that you may have prescribed an antipsychotic medication to a child less than 21 years of age for greater than three months without documentation of metabolic monitoring. Ongoing monitoring of metabolic parameters and potential side effects is required for all patients receiving antipsychotic therapy. Food and Drug Administration-approved product labels for all of the oral second-generation antipsychotics (SGA) contain warnings and precautions associated with metabolic changes, including the risk for hyperglycemia, dyslipidemia, and weight gain. The product information also recommends monitoring glucose, weight, and lipid levels.

Several resources are available relating to this practice. In addition to retrospective utilization data, the DUR Board considered information from clinical guidelines, clinical trials, and safety data. Project Training and Education for the Advancement of Children's Health (Project TEACH), a program funded by the 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/>.

In providing this information to you, the DUR Program recognizes that safe, effective pharmacotherapy depends on the assessment of the patient's entire clinical profile. We ask that you consider the information provided regarding the prescribing of antipsychotic medications to children <21 years of age and the importance of metabolic monitoring.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

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