

### Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders among children in the U.S. In 2022, approximately 11.4% or 7 million children and adolescents 3–17 years of age had a diagnosis of ADHD, with 53.6% of those affected receiving ADHD medications.<sup>1</sup> ADHD is a chronic condition that can negatively impact academic achievements, social interactions and overall well-being.<sup>2,3</sup> The 2019 American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Practice Guidelines strongly recommend combining behavioral therapy with medication to treat children aged 6 years and older.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the California Department of Social Services and the Department of Health Care Services highlight the importance of setting a medication monitoring schedule and periodic reassessments once treatment is initiated.<sup>4</sup> An important Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure evaluates follow-up care for children newly prescribed ADHD medications.<sup>5</sup>

#### What should I know about the HEDIS measure?

This measure assesses the percentage of children between 6 and 12 years of age who were newly prescribed ADHD medication and received at least three follow-up visits with a practitioner with prescribing authority within 10 months. A higher percentage indicates better performance. Two rates are measured:<sup>5</sup>

- **Initiation Phase:** Assesses those who had one follow-up visit with a provider within the first 30 days of a newly prescribed ADHD medication.
- **Continuation and Maintenance (C&M) Phase:** Assesses those who remained on the prescribed ADHD medication for at least 210 days (seven months) and had at least two additional follow-up visits with a provider in the 270 days (nine months) following the initiation phase.

Patients are excluded from the measure if they are in hospice or using hospice services; have an acute inpatient encounter or admission with a principal diagnosis of mental, behavioral or neurodevelopmental disorders; or have narcolepsy.<sup>5</sup>

#### How can I help improve performance?

- Schedule follow-up appointments (initial follow-up visit within 30 days of prescribing ADHD medication and two additional visits within nine months).
- Submit claim and encounter information for all follow-up visits in a timely manner.

ADHD Medications	
Central nervous system (CNS) stimulants	
• Amphetamine-dextroamphetamine	• Lisdexamfetamine
• Dextroamphetamine	• Methylphenidate
• Dexmethylphenidate	• Methamphetamine
• Dexmethylphenidate-serdexmethylphenidate	
Alpha-2 receptor agonists	
• Clonidine	• Guanfacine
Miscellaneous	
• Atomoxetine	• Viloxazine

Qualifying Follow-Ups	Code Examples
Outpatient visit	CPT: 98960, 99078, 99483 or HCPCS: G0463, H0002, T1015
Health and behavior assessment or intervention	CPT: 96156, 96158, 96159, 96164, 96165, 96167
Intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization	HCPCS: G0410, H0035, H2001, H2012, S0201, S9480, S9484
Community mental health center visit	CPT: 90791, 90792, 90832, 90833 with POS: 53
Telehealth visit	CPT: 90791, 90792, 90832, 90833 with POS: 02, 10
Telephone visit	CPT: 98966–98968, 99441–99443
E-visit or virtual check-in*	CPT: 98971, 98980, 99421 or HCPCS: G0071, G2010, G2251

CPT = Current Procedural Terminology, HCPCS = Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, POS = Place of Service

\*Only applicable to C&M Phase; only one of the two visits during the nine months after the initiation phase (days 31–300) may be an e-visit or virtual check-in.

#### References

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- California Guidelines for the Use of Psychotropic Medication with Children and Youth in Foster Care 2024 Edition. California Department of Social Services and Department of Health Care Services. 2024. [https://cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACINs/2024/I-50\\_24.pdf?ver=2024-12-16-104600-837](https://cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACINs/2024/I-50_24.pdf?ver=2024-12-16-104600-837). Accessed January 6, 2026.
- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS MY 2026, Volume 2. Technical Specifications for Health Plans.