PSYCKES Youth Indicator Set

July 2011

Technical Specifications

NYS Office of Mental Health

The PSYCKES Youth Indicators Technical Specifications

Youth Psychotropic Prescribing Indicator Set (YPP):

Youth Younger than 6 Years on Psychotropics;
Higher than Recommended Dose of Psychotropic Medication; and
Polypharmacy of Three or More Psychotropics.

In the following document, the technical specification for each indicator is described. The technical specifications provide the definitions used to calculate each indicator using the NYS Medicaid Mental Health population.

Youth Younger than Six Years Old on Psychotropics

Description: The proportion of Medicaid enrollees younger than six years old prescribed any psychotropic within 35 days of the report date, among all Medicaid enrollees younger than 18.

Eligible Population:

Age:	Under 18.
Inclusion Criteria:	Medicaid enrollee who is prescribed any active psychotropic within 35 days of the report date.
Exclusion Criteria:	None.

Specification:

Numerator:	Enrollees (from the denominator) currently on a psychotropic who are younger than six years old, as of 35 days of the report date.
Denominator:	Eligible Population

Youth on Higher than Recommended Dose of Psychotropic Medication

Description: The proportion of Medicaid enrollees on any psychotropic who are prescribed a dose exceeding recommended maximum (>1 times the recommended maximum). Three levels are provided:

- >1 times higher than the recommended maximum;
- >1.5 times higher than the recommended maximum; and
- >2.0 times higher than the recommended maximum.

Eligible Population:

Age:	Younger than 18.
Inclusion Criteria:	Medicaid enrollee who is prescribed any active antipsychotic within 35 days of the report date.
Exclusion Criteria:	None.

Specification:

Numerator:	Enrollees (from the denominator) currently on a dose exceeding the recommended maximum by a factor of >1.0, >1.5; >2.0 times, as of 35 days of the report date.
Denominator:	Eligible Population

Please see the Psychotropic Medication Reference Table for the specific maximum doses used to calculate this indicator.

Note: Given the lack of FDA approvals of many psychotropic medications in the youth population, a set of decision rules were created to determine the maximum recommended dose for children and adolescents as described in the table below:

To identify the maximum Youth dose

1. When there is an FDA approval for use in a pediatric population, use the associated/extrapolated dose for children under 13 years and those 13 to 18 as the PDR suggests. When there are multiple indications in youth, use the maximum dose for the psychiatric indication (PDR)
2. If there is no FDA indication for the pediatric population, use the guidelines proposed by the Texas report regarding the care of Foster Children (TEXAS)
3. In the absence of both the FDA indication and guidance from the Texas report, then the dosing parameters set forth in Appendix 1 of Pediatric Psychopharmacology: Principles and Practice (2003) Editors Andres Martin, Lawrence Scahill, Dennis S. Charney, and James F. Leckman Oxford University Press (TEXT; Revised edition expected in 2010 will be used to update the recommendations)
4. In the case that none of the above sources set forth any guidance, then the adult PDR Maximum will be used (see Adult Dose Specifications for Rules: Identified by PDR MAX,

Notes: In the case of a weight-based dose, maximum dosages for the under 13 group are based on 40 kg and the dosages for 13-17 years are based on 70 kg.
Please see the Psychotropic Medication Reference Table for the specific maximum doses used to calculate this indicator.

Psychotropic polypharmacy in youth (three or more) (3PP(Y))

Description:	The percentage of enrollees younger than 18 years old currently on three or more psychotropic medications among youth currently on any psychotropic medication
Eligible Population	
Age:	Younger than 18 years old.
Inclusion Criteria:	Medicaid enrollee who is prescribed at least 1 psychotropic medication.
Exclusion Criteria:	Current Medicare enrollee (dual eligibility).
Event/Diagnosis:	An enrollee is included in the eligible population if the enrollee has been prescribed a Psychotropic medication for longer than 90 days* as of the report date.
Specification:	
Numerator:	Enrollees (from the denominator) currently on three or more concurrent psychotropic medications for longer than 90 days (as of the report date).
Denominator:	Eligible Population

* Note: This indicator was initially implemented in August 2008. The algorithm measures time exposed to multiple agents and not the specific regimens.
Individual agent trials are created, allowing for a possible 32 day gap between the last day with medication and the next pick-up date of the same agent (assuming less than perfect adherence and possible short inpatient stays). Polypharmacy trials are created by counting the number of agents available each day (constructed via the agent trials) and assigning corresponding start and end dates. A built-in allowance for polypharmacy trial gap of 15 days is permitted to allow for short periods of fewer medications, if enrollee returns to the same or higher status.