

HEDIS Measure FAQ: Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication

HEDIS Measure Definition

Eligible Population:
Children 6 to 12 years of age dispensed a **new ADHD prescription** from March 1st of year prior to measurement year through February 28th of measurement year.

New ADHD Prescription: No ADHD medication (both stimulant and non-stimulant) dispensed for 120 days (4 months) prior to ADHD prescription start date.

Note: This would apply for a patient that is prescribed ADHD medication for the first time OR for patients that have had a gap of 4 months with no prescriptions filled with any ADHD medications (stimulants/non-stimulants).

Measure Compliance: This measure includes two phases – Initiation Phase and Continuation and Maintenance Phase. Patients must be compliant in both phases to be compliant in the measure.

1. Initiation Phase: At least one follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority during the 30 days after the ADHD prescription date.
2. Continuation and Maintenance Phase: At least 2 additional visits in the 9 months after the Initiation Phase.

Note: A total of 3 visits are needed to be compliant with the measure.

Exclusions:

- Patients who have had an acute inpatient encounter with a mental health or chemical dependency diagnosis during the 10 months after the ADHD prescription date.
- Continuously enrolled for 120 days prior to and 10 months after the ADHD prescription date (allows one 45-day gap in enrollment).
- Patient must have “Continuous ADHD Medication Treatment” (≥ 7 months out of the 10 months; 3 months allowed for “Rx Gap Days”).

Commonly Asked Questions

Do patients included in the measure have to have an ADHD diagnosis? Are ADHD diagnoses required for the follow up visits?

- Unfortunately, the way the measure is defined, all patients who were dispensed an ADHD medication are eligible for this measure. There is no dependency on ADHD diagnoses to be included in the measure. There is also no dependency on ADHD diagnoses for visits to count toward compliance.

What ADHD medications are included in the measure?

Description	Prescription
CNS stimulants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dexmethylphenidate• Dextroamphetamine• Methylphenidate• Lisdexamphetamine• Methamphetamine
Alpha-2 receptor agonists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clonidine• Guanfacine
Miscellaneous ADHD medications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomoxetine

Note: The ADHD medication list includes both stimulant and non-stimulant ADHD medications. [Click here to view the complete list of ADHD Medications.](#)

Will patients be included in the measure twice if they switch between ADHD medications?

- A patient switching from one ADHD medication to another ADHD medication will not result in the patient being in the initiation phase twice. Patients must have 4 continuous months with no ADHD medication scripts filled to be ‘re-eligible’ for the initiation phase. Also, if the same measurement year contains two ‘new ADHD prescriptions’ based on the 4-month gap criteria, only the earliest ADHD prescription date is included.

What type of visit counts toward compliance?

- Visit compliance for this measure is defined as a ‘follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority’. Both pediatric well visits (CPT codes 99381-99397) and sick visits (CPT codes 99201-99215) count toward compliance.
- Also, telehealth (telephonic or virtual) visits count toward compliance for all 3 visits.

[Click here to view an ADHD Medication Follow Up Care Definition & Key Learnings Slide Deck.](#)

What quality improvement strategies can help with this measure?

- Utilize [CMHN ADHD Compliance Portal Report](#) on the Portal to identify patients in need of follow-up visits. A ‘Report Instruction Guide’ is included next to report link.
- Schedule both the initial ADHD visit and the 30 day follow-up visit at the same time.
- Schedule the 30-day follow-up visit before the family leaves the clinic. Require follow-up visit to continue ADHD medication.

[Click here to view CMHN’s Quality Improvement Tool Kit.](#)

Important Tip: The biggest driver for ADHD measure compliance is getting patients in for their 30-day follow-up visit!

- Schedule 30-day follow up visit 2 or 3 weeks from initial visit to leave buffer time if patient needs to reschedule.
- Utilize telemedicine appointments for any of the three follow-up visits.
- Avoid long ADHD medication holidays.