Quality of Care in Medi-Cal: Understanding HEDIS for Children in Foster Care

Presentation of results for public release
April 2020
Understanding HEDIS

- Used broadly to measure quality of health care in various systems and care environments
- Associated with payment incentives and disincentives
- Provides consistency to support comparisons
- Alignment with clinical guidelines and best practices
Understanding Systems: Children in Medi-Cal

- Children in Medi-Cal receive services through Managed Care Plans, Fee-For-Service, and Specialty Mental Health Plans.
- Managed Care Plans and Specialty Mental Health Plans have a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in the care of members.
- Certain groups of children have additional services to coordinate care (e.g., children in foster care).
- For more information about children in Medi-Cal, see the Medi-Cal Children’s Health Dashboard at http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Medi-Cal_Childrens_Health_Advisory_Panel.aspx.
Understanding Systems: Children in Foster Care

• Children in Foster Care have a comprehensive team to help facilitate care
  – Social Worker
  – Public Health Nurse
  – Judicial System

• In counties with County Organized Health Systems (COHS), children in Foster Care are in managed care

• In non-COHS counties, children in Foster Care may be in Managed Care Plans or Fee-For-Service

• In all counties, children in Foster Care may receive care in Specialty Mental Health Plans depending on their needs
Assessing Quality of Care in Health Systems

- **HEDIS**: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set
- Used by more than 90% of America's health plans to measure performance
- Currently includes more than 90 measures across six domains of care
- Designed by expert panels and stakeholders to be relevant, scientifically sound, and feasible
- HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance

http://www.ncqa.org/HEDISQualityMeasurement.aspx#sthash.Xe0X6upv.dpuf
HEDIS for Quality Improvement

- Measures are structured to capture time periods that align with clinical guidelines
- Inclusion criteria require that patients be enrolled with a given plan/group/provider during the measurement period
- This gives providers equal opportunities to influence the outcome for their patients
- Each measure has inclusion and exclusion criteria which are essential for comparability of results
- There are multiple report cards based on HEDIS – California’s Office of the Patient Advocate uses HEDIS
  https://www.opa.ca.gov/reportcards/Pages/default.aspx
CMS Child Core Set

- Several HEDIS Behavioral Health Measures are part of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Child Core Set
  - Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Medication (ADD)
  - Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness: Ages 6–17 (FUH)
  - Use of Multiple Concurrent Antipsychotics (APC), which is being retired by HEDIS and replaced with Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APM) next year
  - Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Antipsychotics (APP)

HEDIS Behavioral Health Measures for Children Reported by DHCS

- **ADD:** Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Medication includes an initiation phase and a continuation phase
  
  *Reported to CMS 2020* [SB 484, Ch. 540, Statutes of 2015]

- **FUH:** Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness includes a 7 day and a 30 day follow up
  
  *Reported to CMS 2020*

- **APP:** Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics
  
  *Reported to CMS 2020* [SB 484]

- **APC:** Use of Multiple Concurrent Antipsychotics in Children and Adolescents
  
  *Reported to CMS 2020* [SB 484]

- **APM:** Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics
  
  *[SB 484]*
What we understand from HEDIS Measures

- **ADHD** measure assesses dose adjustments for new medications.
- **Follow-up After Hospitalizations** measure assesses follow-up care which will assess stabilization and should be used to help prevent re-hospitalization.
- **Psychosocial Care** measure assesses supportive treatments for new antipsychotic medications.
- **Concurrent Antipsychotic** measure assesses medication use for ongoing treatment.
- **Metabolic Monitoring** measure assesses potential risks associated with ongoing treatment.
Data For This Report

• Data for calendar year 2018 was retrieved from the DHCS Management Information System/Decision Support System between November and December 2019

• Medi-Cal data was linked to Department of Social Services data (April 2020) to identify children in out-of-home placement

• In the tables in this presentation:
  – Foster Care is a subset of Medi-Cal
  – Group Home is a subset of Foster Care

• National Medicaid scores given at the bottom of each table can be found on the Medicaid & CHIP Open Data site
  [https://data.medicaid.gov/](https://data.medicaid.gov/)
Scores for subgroups of children that have denominators less than 30 are omitted because such small rates are unreliable and may be subject to re-identification

– Result marked as NA

Scores for subgroups of children that have numerators less than 11 are suppressed to protect confidentiality in accordance with the DHCS Data De-identification Guidelines (https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/Pages/PublicReportingGuidelines.aspx)

– Result marked with asterisk *
Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication

- Visits to adjust doses for the desired effect in the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is very important

- Out-of-home placement when medication was first prescribed defines the foster care group

Initiation Phase

- Must have a new ADHD prescription (none for at least 120 days)

- Be ages 6 to 12 and enrolled 120 days prior to and 30 days after prescription

- Measures a visit with a provider with prescribing authority within 30 days of the new prescription
ADHD Medication Follow-up: Initiation Phase

- Medi-Cal at new prescription
- Foster Care at new prescription
## ADHD Medication Follow-up: Initiation Phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Numerator</th>
<th>2017 Denominator</th>
<th>2017 Rate</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal at time of new prescription</td>
<td>11,825</td>
<td>27,105</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>12,358</td>
<td>27,073</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care at time of new prescription</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 Medicaid median: 48.7; 25th percentile: 43.0; 75th percentile: 56.3
Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication

Continuation Phase

• Must have a new ADHD prescription (none for at least 120 days)
• Be ages 6 to 12 and enrolled 120 days prior to and 300 days after prescription
• Meet the criteria for the Initiation Phase of having one visit within 30 days of the new prescription
• Have at least two more follow-up visits between 31 and 300 days after the new prescription
ADHD Medication Follow-up: Continuation Phase

- Medi-Cal at new prescription
- Foster Care at new prescription
## ADHD Medication Follow-up: Continuation Phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Numerator</th>
<th>2017 Denominator</th>
<th>2017 Rate</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal at time of new</td>
<td>3,706</td>
<td>7,053</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>3,978</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prescription</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care at time of</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>66.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>new prescription</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 Medicaid median: 61.1; 25\textsuperscript{th} percentile: 55.0; 75\textsuperscript{th} percentile: 65.4
Considerations for ADHD Medication Follow Up

• ADHD medications represent approximately one-third of paid claims for psychotropic medications prescribed to children, especially in the 6 to 12 year old group

• While performance scores for Initiation and Continuation phases are similar, the number of children who qualify for the Continuation phase decreases to about half for Foster Care, and to about one-fourth for children in Medi-Cal

• This decrease occurs when:
  – Children are not continuously enrolled in Medi-Cal for the 10 month period after receiving the medication, or
  – Children do not have ongoing medication during the 10 month follow up time period
Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness

- Children who were hospitalized for treatment of mental illness and who had an outpatient visit, an intensive outpatient encounter, or partial hospitalization with a mental health practitioner. Two rates are collected:
  - Percentage of discharges for which children received follow-up within 7 days
  - Percentage of discharges for which children received follow-up within 30 days

- Out-of-home placement when hospitalized defines the foster care group
Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness 6 through 17 year olds at 7 day and 30 day Follow-up

- Medi-Cal at discharge - 7 day F/U
- Foster Care at discharge - 7 day F/U
- Medi-Cal at discharge - 30 day F/U
- Foster Care at discharge - 30 day F/U

4/28/2020
Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 7 day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Numerator</th>
<th>2017 Denominator</th>
<th>2017 Rate</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal at discharge, 6-17</td>
<td>7,317</td>
<td>10,146</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>6,848</td>
<td>9,619</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care at discharge, 6-17</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home at discharge, 6-17</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 Medicaid scores not available for 6-17 years age group
### Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 30 day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Numerator</th>
<th>2017 Denominator</th>
<th>2017 Rate</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal at discharge, 6-17</td>
<td>8,633</td>
<td>10,146</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>8,055</td>
<td>9,619</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care at discharge, 6-17</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home at discharge, 6-17</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>89.3%</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use of First-Line Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics

- Must have a new antipsychotic prescription with none for at least 120 days prior
- Be ages 1 to 17 and enrolled 120 days prior to and 30 days after new prescription
- Diagnoses for which first-line medication may be appropriate are excluded (schizophrenia, other psychosis, autism, bipolar disorder) – if the diagnosis occurs at least twice during the measurement period
- Receipt of psychosocial services 90 days before through 30 days after the new prescription
- Out-of-home placement when medication was first prescribed defines the foster care group
APP: First-Line Psychosocial Care

Diagram showing percentages of Medi-Cal, Foster Care, and Group Home at time of new prescription from 2014 to 2018.
## First-Line Psychosocial Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Numerator</th>
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<th>2017 Rate</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal at time of new prescription</td>
<td>3,485</td>
<td>5,919</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
<td>3,370</td>
<td>5,474</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care at time of new prescription</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>89.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home at time of new prescription</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age Stratification: First-Line Psychosocial Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal 1 – 11 years</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care 1 – 11 years</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal 12 – 17 years</td>
<td>2,470</td>
<td>3,949</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care 12 – 17 years</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Considerations for First-Line Psychosocial Care

- For Foster Care, the measure is calculated based on being in Foster Care at the time of the new paid claim for an antipsychotic medication.
- Actual counts of children in the measure for the most recent year may increase as reporting becomes more complete.
- This measure was performed using a modification to the HEDIS specification related to the allowed Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes:
  - H2015, a code representing Community Services, is not part of this HEDIS measure value set.
  - H2015 was included by CA if the H2015 service was provided by a mental health professional.
Use of Multiple Concurrent Antipsychotics in Children and Adolescents (APC)

- Of children who received one antipsychotic medication for 90 continuous days, provides the percentage of children who had two or more antipsychotic medications during any 90 day period.

- Antipsychotics are associated with the potential for significant side effects and two concurrent antipsychotics increases that potential.

- Out-of-home placement when medication was first prescribed defines the foster care group.
APC: Concurrent Antipsychotics: 1 - 17 years old

- Group Home ≥6 months of the year
- Foster Care ≥6 months of the year
- Medi-Cal ≥11 months of the year
## Concurrent Antipsychotics: 1 to 17 years old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Numerator</th>
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<th>2017 Rate</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal ≥11 months of the year</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>12,495</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>12,003</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care ≥6 months of the year</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home ≥6 months of the year</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 Medicaid median: 2.9; 25th percentile: 3.6; 75th percentile: 1.9
## Age Stratification: Concurrent Antipsychotics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal 1–11 years</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal 12–17 years</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>8,703</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 numerators for Foster Care and Group Home performance are too small to report by age group.
Considerations for Concurrent Antipsychotics

- The decrease in the number of children in the denominators for the antipsychotics measures (APC, APM and APP) is likely due to the multi-factor approach to education, outreach, and policy driven changes.


- The number of children on two antipsychotics in the APC measure also decreased.

- Children in Foster Care and Group homes have lower rates than children in Medi-Cal, likely due to recent efforts by the California Department of Social Services.
• Must have at least two antipsychotic medication dispensing events

• Tests performed for glucose or HbA1c and lipid or cholesterol

• Use of antipsychotic medications increases the risk for and complications of diabetes, high cholesterol and metabolic syndrome

• This measure assesses the performance of metabolic monitoring for those children exposed to antipsychotic medications beyond a single acute treatment
APM: Metabolic Monitoring

- Group Home ≥6 months of the year
- Foster Care ≥6 months of the year
- Medi-Cal ≥11 months of the year
## Tabular results: Metabolic Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Numerator</th>
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<th>2017 Rate</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal ≥11 months of the year</td>
<td>6,477</td>
<td>15,874</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>6,301</td>
<td>15,172</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care ≥6 months of the year</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home ≥6 months of the year</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Age Stratification: Metabolic Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2018 Numerator</th>
<th>2018 Denominator</th>
<th>2018 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 11 years</td>
<td>1,410</td>
<td>4,149</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 11 years</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 11 years</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 – 17 years</td>
<td>4,891</td>
<td>11,023</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 – 17 years</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 – 17 years</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Considerations for Metabolic Monitoring

- Lab claims data comes from the delivery system caring for the child – approximately 55% fee-for-service and 45% managed care

- Although a psychiatrist may order the labs, the patient may return to a different medical delivery system to have the labs performed

- The Drug Utilization Review Board performed direct outreach to fee-for-service providers in 2015, and likely resulted in better scores since 2016 – this increase is expected to continue, as efforts are ongoing
What we learn from HEDIS Measures

• ADHD measure
  – Room for improvement for both children in Medi-Cal and Foster Care

• Follow-up After Hospitalization measure
  – California is performing well although room to improve
  – A significant number of children 6-17 are hospitalized for mental illness although numbers declined this year

• Psychosocial Care measure
  – Significant opportunity to improve granularity of coding for psychosocial services to better understand care delivered
  – Opportunity to increase utilization of psychosocial services
What we learn from HEDIS Measures

• Concurrent Antipsychotic measure
  – California’s rate dropped significantly in 2015 due to extension of the requirements for Treatment Authorization for Antipsychotics through age 17, which occurred in November 2014, and appears to be at a stable lower rate

• Metabolic Monitoring measure
  – Significant opportunity for improvements both in reporting and in practice
  – System integration and data sharing among providers are supporting improvements in this measure
What we learn from HEDIS Measures

• Overall
  – Specific opportunities for improvement and focus are identified for further investigation and quality improvement cycles
  – California is performing comparably or better for children in Medi-Cal when compared to national averages where national averages are available