

## **Policy Implementation: Off Label Antipsychotic Monitoring in Children through Age 17**

<b>Phase One Implementation: Children 0 through 12 years of Age - Start Date April 12, 2011</b>
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On April 12, 2011 DMA will implement [Clinical Policy A6](#) entitled Off Label Antipsychotic Monitoring in Children Through Age 17. The policy encourages the use of appropriate baseline and follow-up monitoring parameters to facilitate the safe and effective use of antipsychotics in children 17 and under. In accordance with the policy, DMA, in partnership with Community Care of North Carolina, will maintain an electronic registry for providers to document the use of antipsychotic therapy in Medicaid-eligible children age 17 and under. The registry, named A+KIDS, found at [www.documentforsafety.org](http://www.documentforsafety.org) is supported by an advisory panel consisting of child psychiatrists from North Carolina's four medical universities.

The registry will be implemented in phases according to the age of the child for whom the antipsychotic is prescribed. Phase one for Medicaid eligible children 12 years of age or younger will begin April 12, 2011. The subsequent phase for the 13 through 17 age group will occur under the same guidelines at a later date. Providers will receive notification of the start date for phase two.

Prescribers have the option to submit registry information to DMA by fax using the North Carolina Medicaid Off Label Antipsychotic Safety Monitoring Children 0 through Age 12 form. The form is available on the N.C. Medicaid Enhanced Pharmacy Program website at <http://www.ncmedicaidpbm.com>. ACS will start receiving forms on April 12, 2011.

Objectives of the A+KIDS registry include improvement in the use of evidence-based safety monitoring for patients for whom an antipsychotic agent is prescribed; reduction of antipsychotic polypharmacy; and reduction of cases in which the FDA maximum dose is exceeded. Data elements collected within the registry reflect a generally accepted monitoring profile for the safety and efficacy follow-up of the prescribed antipsychotic pharmacotherapy.

Please refer to the Outpatient Pharmacy Services link on the DMA Website found at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/pharmacy/index.htm> for detailed information about the policy. Information found there will help you understand the policy and the A+KIDS registry.