

Attachment I: Analysis of atypical antipsychotic drugs

GOALS:

- To conduct an intervention based on the previous low dose monotherapy atypical antipsychotic intervention on prescribers not included in the previous intervention.

METHODS:

All claims for the atypical antipsychotic drugs (aripiprazole, clozapine, olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone, and ziprasidone) were extracted for October 2007 through January 2008. Data were aggregated to produce the daily dose by patient.

A query was run to select patients on only one atypical antipsychotic drug at doses below those normally used to treat schizophrenia, psychoses, or bipolar disease. The following doses were used:

- Abilify (aripiprazole)-less than 10 mg/day
- clozapine-less than 200 mg/day
- Geodon (ziprasidone)-less than 80 mg/day
- Risperdal (risperidone)-less than 2 mg/day
- Seroquel (quetiapine)-less than 300 mg/day
- Zyprexa (olanzapine)-5 mg or less/day
- Invega (paliperidone)-3 mg or less/day

The intervention consisted of a letter explaining the reason for the intervention, a one-page form for responses that can be mailed or faxed back, and a list of the patients for each prescriber that included the patient name, Medicaid ID, and date of birth and the prescriptions for atypical antipsychotic drugs between October 1, 2007 and January 31, 2008 attributed to the prescriber. The drug data included the drug and dose, the date the prescription was filled and the amount Medicaid paid for the drug claim. The letter was the same letter approved for the previous intervention with very slight modifications

PRELIMINARY RESULTS:

The claims were aggregated by prescriber. Claims for prescribers included in the previous intervention were excluded. Prescribers were ranked by the number of patients for which they prescribed low dose monotherapy atypical antipsychotics. To be included in the intervention, the prescriber must have more than 5 patients on low dose monotherapy drugs.

A summary of the findings includes:

- Intervention letters were mailed out on February 21, 2008.
- 86 prescribers were identified as meeting the criterion of more than five patients. These prescribers were selected as the target for the intervention.
- 780 patients were included in the intervention.