



PBH Communication Bulletin FY 1112 UM 19
Prescribing of antipsychotics in children

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To: PBH Network Providers

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RE: Prescribing of antipsychotics in children

The use of antipsychotic medications is a national concern in the United States.

North Carolina has instituted the A+ KIDS program that requires providers to enter data into a statewide database when they prescribe antipsychotics to children. This data is yet to be tabulated but when it is it should shed light on the issue.

PBH has tabulated the use of antipsychotics and has found that 19% of all children treated in a three-month period in 2011 were taking second generation antipsychotics.

PBH also tabulated the inappropriate use of antipsychotics in these children.

The results are as follows:

Percent of children in the PBH waiver who are prescribed antipsychotics = 19%

Percent of patients with no indicated diagnosis for the use of antipsychotics = 6.50%

Even though these numbers are relatively small, providers are encouraged to use caution when prescribing these drugs.

Prescribers are also encouraged to monitor metabolic indicators in their patients who are on antipsychotics. At a minimum, patients should have weights every 12 weeks, glucose measurement at least annually, blood pressure annually, and base line lipid levels.