

To: AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers

Date: January 19, 2016

Subject: **Working Together to Improve Diabetes Screening for Members with Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder**

Summary: AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia (DC) is dedicated to ensuring its members receive high-quality care from providers. One measure of quality care we use is the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®), which measures important aspects of care and services provided to our members.

This year, one HEDIS measure we are paying close attention to is **Diabetes Screening for People with Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder Who Are Using Antipsychotic Medications.**

Background:

Diabetes Screening for People with Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder Who Are Using Antipsychotic Medications is a HEDIS measure that examines the percentage of members ages 18 – 64 years with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, who were dispensed a qualifying antipsychotic medication (see table below) and were screened for diabetes (glucose test or HbA1C) during that year.

Individuals living with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder are at high risk of developing diabetes. The risk of developing diabetes increases if they are prescribed an antipsychotic medication; these drugs can cause major weight gain and changes in metabolism. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to screen this population for diabetes, as it may lead to earlier detection and treatment of diabetes.

Your Impact:

You play a central role in advocating the health of your patients — our members. You and your staff can help facilitate the HEDIS process by:

- Ensuring the appropriate billing codes are used for services rendered
- Arranging lab services while the member is still in your office
- Educating your patients on the importance of screenings related to their medication therapy

Action Needed:

Please reference the table below when providing services to your patients. The table includes a list of qualifying antipsychotic medications.

Description	Prescription		
Miscellaneous antipsychotic agents	Aripiprazole Asenapine Clozapine Haloperidol Iloperidone Loxapine	Lurisdone Molindone Olanzapine Paliperidone Pimozide Quetiapine	Quetiapine fumarate Risperidone Ziprasidone
Phenothiazine antipsychotics	Chlorpromazine Fluphenazine Perphenazine	Perphenazine-amitriptyline Prochlorperazine	Thioridazine Trifluoperazine
Psychotherapeutic combinations	Fluoxetine-olanzapine		
Thioxanthenes	Thiothixene		
Long-acting injections	Aripiprazole Fluphenazine decanoate Haloperidol decanoate	Olanzapine Paliperidone palmitate	Risperidone

Questions:

If you have any questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or Provider Services at 202-408-2237 or 1-855-656-2383.