

FINDINGS FROM AN ONLINE DRUG MONITORING AND SAFETY REGISTRY FOR CHILDREN PRESCRIBED ANTIPSYCHOTICS

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Introduction: There is widespread concern over the perceived indiscriminant prescribing of antipsychotic medications in children, particularly for those residing in low-income households or foster care. Ongoing safety and efficacy monitoring is suggested by many professional associations.

Objectives: Describe reported diagnosis and symptomology for over 15,000 children prescribed antipsychotics in the 17-month period from April 2011 through August 2012.

Aims: Increase appropriate monitoring of children who are prescribed antipsychotics.

Methods: A policy was developed by the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance, in collaboration with Community Care of North Carolina, that requires prescribers to register patients via a web portal before reimbursement is allowed to the pharmacy. Required registration elements include a patient's primary diagnosis, target symptom for medication use, initiating prescriber, caregiver support of medication use, adverse drug event reporting, and metabolic monitoring deemed best practice by the literature review.

Results: From April of 2011 through August 2012, a total of 1,241 prescribers have written 29,691 prescriptions for 15,194 patients in the A+KIDS program. Unspecified Mood Disorder was the first most common representing 22% of patients. Bipolar Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and ADHD, followed at 14%, 12%, and 12% respectively. "Aggression towards others," "Irritability" and "Tantrums/temper" were the most common target symptoms (representing 63.6% of patients).