



Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications for Individuals with Schizophrenia (SAA) measure

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield (Highmark BCBS) partners with Wellpoint companies to administer certain services to Medicaid Managed Care (MMC), Health and Recovery Plan (HARP), and Child Health Plus (CHPlus) members. Please note, this information is specific to the MMC, HARP, and CHPlus, and Essential Plan programs only.

Highmark BCBS collects quality data from our care providers to measure and improve the care our members receive. Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications for Individuals with Schizophrenia (SAA) is just one aspect of care we measure in our quality programs. Quality measures evaluate a prior calendar year performance.

What we measure

The percentage of members 18 years of age and older during the measurement year with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder who were dispensed and remained on an antipsychotic medication for at least 80% of their treatment period.

SSD is a HEDIS®/Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (QARR) measure. Visit the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\)](#) website for more details.

Why it matters

Schizophrenia is a chronic and disabling psychiatric disorder that requires ongoing treatment and monitoring. Symptoms include hallucinations, illogical thinking, memory impairment, and incoherent speech. Medication non-adherence is common and a major concern in the treatment of schizophrenia. Using antipsychotic medications as prescribed reduces the risk of relapse or hospitalization.¹

Eligible population

Members ages 18 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year are included in this measure:

- Exclusions: members in hospice, members with a diagnosis of dementia

Tips to consider:

- Educate the importance of medication compliance.
- Follow up to confirm that they are taking their medications.
- Ensure appointment availability and reschedule appointments as needed.

How to document

Quality data is collected from claims only. Hybrid chart review does not apply. For more information, see [NCQA's HEDIS/QARR Measures and Technical Resources](#).

¹ <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/adherence-to-antipsychotic-medications-for-individuals-with-schizophrenia/>

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