

The Peer Review Program for Mental Health Medications July 2012

The Peer Review Program for Mental Health Medications began in October 2012. The initial phase of the program covered children under the age of 5. Approximately, 59 clients less than age five were on antipsychotics at the start of the program. An additional 58 new clients were also considered over the eight months of operation. Approximately, 60% of the clients were approved to continue to receive antipsychotic medications. Of the remaining clients, most were voluntarily discontinued by their prescribers. About one-third of the prescribers were primary providers including pediatricians, nurse practitioners and family practitioners. During phase one, considerable time was spent updating criteria to reflect additional diagnoses in older children, gather data to coordinate with other programs and provide outreach.

Phase two of the program will expand to children less than 10 years of age on July 31, 2012. This will include over 1600 clients, 500 prescribers and 600 pharmacies. The program is in the process of contacting prescribers for children who are currently receiving antipsychotics according to Medicaid Pharmacy Program records.

To obtain further information on the program or access criteria or program forms, please visit the program page on the Medicaid Pharmacy Program website at:

<http://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/pap/SitePages/Peer%20Review%20Program.aspx>