

HEDIS® Tip Sheet

Diabetes Screening for People with Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder who are Using Antipsychotic Medications (SSD)



Point32Health's HEDIS Tip Sheets offer insights into specific HEDIS measures. These best practices and tips can optimize HEDIS scores and identify opportunities to improve patient care.

The SSD measure assesses the percentage of members 18-64 years of age with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or bipolar disorder who were dispensed an antipsychotic medication and had a diabetes screening test during the measurement year.

- Individuals with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder have an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes. For patients taking antipsychotic medications, the risk is even higher.
- Annual screening for diabetes using an HbA1C or fasting glucose test can contribute to early detection and development of an appropriate treatment plan.



Provider Best Practices

- **Educate** patients on the risk of diabetes, symptoms of onset, and the importance of screening for diabetes while taking antipsychotic medication.
- **Order** an annual HbA1C or fasting glucose diabetes screening test to be completed pre-physical, for patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder who are taking antipsychotic medications.
- **Document** diabetes screening test, including date and result.
- **Build** care gap "alerts" in the electronic medical record.
- **Outreach** to patients who cancel appointments to assist with timely rescheduling.
- **Provide** support to patients who may benefit from appointment reminders and prioritization of health care needs.
- **Include** contact information for all the patient's current providers in their medical record.
- **Foster** coordination of health care among providers by sharing release of information forms with primary care physicians and behavioral health and specialty care providers, and confirm their completion.



Did You Know?

A study published by the [National Library of Medicine](#) in 2019 indicates that antipsychotic medication may increase the risk of diabetes through weight gain and adverse effects on insulin sensitivity and secretion.

Regular diabetes screening, monitoring, and coordination of health care for at-risk individuals can decrease the likelihood of ED visits, enhance quality of life, and improve patient outcomes.

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