

## Measure 5a.2 – Use of Antipsychotic Medication among Youth in Foster Care

Measure 5a.2 – Use of Antipsychotic Medication among Youth in Foster Care displays the number of children with a Medi-Cal paid claim for antipsychotic medication, the number of children in foster care in the period, and the derived percentage of children in foster care at some time during a 12-month period with a paid claim for medication and a concurrent placement in foster care.

**Data Source:** The CWS/CMS<sup>1</sup> data for children in foster care and Medi-Cal fee-for-service and managed care pharmacy paid claims data for antipsychotic medication for children in foster care identified through aid codes from the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) MIS/DSS<sup>2</sup> are matched. The process for the match involves using a probabilistic, multi-step, multi-method algorithm of exact and inexact matches based on a combination of name, social security number, and date of birth records between the two systems.

**Frequency:** Quarterly, rolling 12-month period.

### Denominator

The denominator includes children:

- In foster care for 30 days or more,<sup>3</sup> and is computed by subtracting the CWS/CMS episode removal date variable (*removal\_dt*), from the end date variable (*pleps\_endt*). If the episode is open, the last day of the reporting period is used;
- In Child Welfare Department, Probation, State Adoptions, and Indian Child Welfare supervised care; and
- Under 18 years old at the beginning of the reporting period.
- The most recent county of jurisdiction, responsible agency, and placement type within the 12-month period are used.

The denominator excludes children:

- Placed in California under the jurisdiction of another state (incoming ICPC<sup>4</sup>);
- Who are placed with non-dependent legal guardians; and
- In Non-Foster Care placements.

### Numerator

The numerator includes children described above:

- Who had one or more claims for an **antipsychotic** medication and a concurrent open foster care episode during the 12-month period of measurement as defined for the denominator;
- County of jurisdiction, placement type, and age are calculated from the most recent paid claim date for a psychotropic medication in which the youth was in an open foster care episode;
- Time in foster care is computed by subtracting the CWS/CMS episode removal date variable (*removal\_dt*), from the end date variable (*pleps\_endt*). If the episode is open, the last day of the reporting period is used.

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<sup>1</sup>Child Welfare Services/Case Management System

<sup>2</sup> Medi-Cal Management Information System/Decision Support System

<sup>3</sup> The 30-day period allows for the court to establish jurisdiction over the youth, Welfare and Institutions Code sections 369.5 and 739.5.

<sup>4</sup> Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children