Concomitant Antipsychotic Treatment for Children Under 18 Years of Age Guideline

**Approved Indications:** Treatment refractory Schizophrenia spectrum disorders or Bipolar disorder, with psychosis and/or severe symptoms

**Special Considerations:** Cross tapers should be approved for 30 days when the member is 17 or younger. Providers must submit a prior authorization request for continued concomitant use of any two antipsychotics beyond the 30 days allowed for cross tapering.

**Guidelines for Approval for refractory schizophrenia spectrum disorder:**
- Evidence of adequate trials of at least three (3) individual antipsychotics listed on the formulary for 4-6 weeks of maximum tolerated doses, and failure is due to:
  - Inadequate response to maximum tolerated dose
  - Adverse reaction(s)
  - Break through symptoms

**Guidelines for Approval for refractory bipolar disorder with psychosis and/or severe symptoms:**
- Evidence of adequate trials of at least four (4) evidence-based treatment options dependent upon the episode type. Trials may include, but are not limited to, combination therapy of antipsychotics and mood stabilizers and/or anticonvulsants. Trials should be 4-6 weeks of maximum tolerated doses, with failure due to:
  - Inadequate response to maximum tolerated dose
  - Adverse reaction(s),
  - Break through symptoms

**Additional Requirements:** Provider must provide supporting documentation that adherence to the treatment regimen has not been a contributing factor to the lack of response in the medication trials. Provider should provide attestation that care coordination has occurred if more than 1 prescriber.

**Coverage is Not Authorized for:**
- Members with known hypersensitivity to requested medication(s)
- Prior Authorization Requests not meeting the above stated criteria

**Duration of Approval if Requirements Are Met:**

**Hospital Discharge:**
14 days

**Initial Approval:**
- **Non-Cross Taper:**
  - 60 days


Current Version Effective: 10.1.2022
• Cross Taper:
  o 30 days

Renewal Approval:
• 60 days

Concomitant Antipsychotic References:
1. ADHS/DBHS: Provider Manual Section 3.15: Psychotropic Medication: Prescribing and Monitoring