

NEWS & NOTES

The Newsletter for EmblemHealth, GHI and HIP Providers

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How to Help Your Patient With ADHD

A diagnosis of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) may be both a relief and a scare for a child's caregiver. The diagnosis itself may be a relief, but it may also cause fears about the child's future.

When an ADHD diagnosis is confirmed, you and your staff can do a lot to reassure the child's parent or guardian by providing education about ADHD and treatment, addressing the initial plan as well as discussing the need for continuing treatment based on the chronicity of the disorder. The role of medication in treatment, as well as potential side effects, should be discussed. Parents and guardians should also be introduced to the concept of the caregiver as "case manager" on behalf of the child.



To support the caregivers of your patients recently prescribed ADHD medication, we will send them a "toolkit" consisting of an informational letter, an American Academy of Pediatrics brochure on ADHD, a list of online resources and a Health Care Appointment Planner for the parent's use in recording a practitioner's recommendations, questions to ask during the next appointment and appointment dates.



Please encourage the parents or guardians of your patients who have been prescribed ADHD medication to read these materials and discuss their concerns with you.

When EmblemHealth becomes aware that the caregiver of one of your patients with prescribed ADHD medication has not refilled a prescription, we will notify you by mail. We will also mail the caregiver a letter encouraging them to talk to you, the child's doctor, before stopping ADHD medication.

If you would like a copy of the ADHD toolkit sent to caregivers of patients recently prescribed ADHD medication, please call the Quality Improvement department at **1-888-447-5451**.