

## Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications for Schizophrenia Patients (SAA)

Patients 18 years of age and older during the measurement period, with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, who were dispensed and remained on an antipsychotic medication for at least 80% of their treatment period.

Refer to the HEDIS MY 2026 Medication List Directory for the complete and current list of antipsychotic medications included in this measure.

### Exclusions

- Medicare enrollees, 66 years of age and older by the last day of the measurement period, in an institutional SNP (I-SNP) or living long-term in an institution (LTI).
- Persons 66–80 years of age by the last day of the measurement period, with both frailty and advanced illness.
- Persons 81 years of age and older by the last day of the measurement period, with frailty.
- Persons with dementia.
- Persons who did not have at least two antipsychotic medication dispensing events.

### Documentation Requirements

- This measure is calculated using pharmacy claims data and cannot be closed through a single visit or code submission.
- Document diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.
- Pharmacy claims showing:
  - ≥2 fills
  - Continuous coverage ≥80% of treatment period

### Common Documentation Insufficiencies

- Assessing measure performance is limited by the need for the treatment period to complete (data is very limited for the first 9-10 months of the year).
  - Treatment period is: the period of time beginning on the index prescription start date through the last day of the measurement year.
- No follow-up after initial prescription or lack of ongoing monitoring or medication management.

## Best Practices

- Improving adherence requires ongoing engagement, refill monitoring, and barrier reduction, not just prescribing the medication.
- Encourage patients to take medications as prescribed.
- Offer tips to patients such as:
  - Take medication at the same time each day.
  - Use a pill box.
  - Enroll in a pharmacy automatic-refill program.
- Educate patients and caregivers.
  - Reinforce the importance of daily adherence.
  - Discuss what to do if a dose is missed.