New Services for Children in Foster Care

From: Passport Health Plan
Sent: January 4, 2018
To: Providers for Children in Foster Care

Background:
The Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services (DMS), Passport Health Plan (Passport), and the Child and Adolescent Health Research Design and Support (CAHRDS) team from the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics are partnering to improve the quality of prescribing practices to children on Kentucky Medicaid and in foster care.

The rates of use of an antipsychotic medication (APM) to children in Kentucky on Medicaid are about twice the national average. About 14% of all children served by Kentucky Medicaid are prescribed APM and the rate increases to 42% for children in foster care. The rates of APM in Kentucky are also higher than the national average and serious quality issues are present given the long-term side effects of these medications and many of these medications are used for treatment of non-FDA approved indications. Our program will provide expert review of all APMs prescribed to children in foster care covered by Passport.

The goal of the program is to improve the rational use of APMs including APM in this vulnerable population and provide increased access to evidence-based practices and community resources.

Prior Authorizations
Effective February 5, 2018, Passport’s partner CAHRDS will review all APMs for children in foster care. Reviews will cover issues such as the indications, diagnosis, use of psychosocial therapy, and quality monitoring issues.

Provider Action Needed:
Prescriptions for APM for children in foster care covered by Passport will be identified before the prescription is filled and providers will be asked to fill out a short prior authorization form, then:

- The form will be reviewed by a child psychiatrist from the CAHRDS team;
- The provider may be contacted by the reviewer to discuss the clinical rationale for the use of the medication;
- The discussion will cover issues such as the diagnosis, use of psychosocial therapy, and quality monitoring issues.
If the medications are not approved, the providers will be given clinical rationale including other treatment options and mental health treatment resources to consider. Once approved the medications are dispensed as usual from the pharmacy. Please note, providers and members still have the ability to appeal an adverse decision.

**Child Psychiatry Access Line**

In addition, *providers caring for children in foster care covered by Passport may electively consult a board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist* from the CAHRDS program on treatment issues such as establishing a diagnosis, the rational use of medications or access to appropriate mental health services before a prescription for a psychotropic medication is written. Initially, this consultation will only be available for providers caring for children in foster care covered by Passport. **Providers will call 1-888-678-0760 to get started.**

**Questions:**

For questions about this pilot program, please contact Marc Zakem, Specialty Program Interim Manager at Passport Health Plan at 502-907-1358.