

Measure: **Antidepressant Medication Management**

Our goal is to increase the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were treated with antidepressant medication, had a diagnosis of major depression who remained on an antidepressant medication for at least 84 days from 48% to 51% by 2017.

Identified Barriers:	Recommendations:
<p>Inadequate communications among treating providers</p>	<p>Create internal policies to improve communication between you and other providers who are treating your patients. For example, data systems, referral portals or tracking systems, EMR reminders or flags.</p>
<p>Failure of providers to properly educate patients on the nature of depression, role of antidepressants, importance of taking medications on a daily basis, delayed onset of therapeutic effects as well as transitional/ long term effects.</p>	<p>Improve patient education by the use of tools provided by the Plan. For example, <i>Antidepressant Medications Tip Sheet</i>, brochures, clinical guidelines listed in the MetroPlus Provider Portal, Resources available from <b>Beacon Health</b> (our Behavioral Health Vendor)</p>
<p>Inadequate follow up after initiating antidepressant treatment.</p>	<p>To improve follow up after initiating antidepressant treatment for a patient, please make sure to set up follow up appointments before the patient leaves the office. The appointment should be within two weeks of the initial prescription for antidepressant medication.</p>
<p>Inadequate titration of antidepressant medications</p>	<p>Please make sure to use the tools available in the provider portal. For example, the <b>APA <u>Clinical Practice Guideline Recommendations for Dosage Titration.</u></b></p>

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<p><b>Identified Barriers:</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>
<p>Lack of members' understanding of the proper use of antidepressant medications and the importance of staying on medication regiment.</p>	<p>Use <i>Antidepressant Medication Tip Sheets</i> or any other available medication adherence materials available to you. MetroPlus has a wide range of resources, including <b><u>Antidepressant Medication brochures</u></b>.</p>
<p>Providers unfamiliar with clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of depression.</p>	<p>MetroPlus has listed clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of depression on the provider portal. These guidelines include recommendations for titrating the dosage of antidepressants.</p>