

Second opinion child and adolescent psychiatrist (SOCAP) psychotropic medication consultation program for primary care prescribers

The youth in foster care represent approximately 3 percent of youth receiving Medicaid, yet 15 percent of behavioral health services users and 13 percent of recipients of psychotropic medications. As a result of their frequent displacement, it is a challenge to manage their prescribed psychotropic medications. In order to address this challenge, beginning on January 3, 2019, Amerigroup Community Care has implemented a new program to support primary care prescribers who manage psychotropic medications for any Amerigroup member between 0-18 years of age.

What does this mean to me?

The new program will:

- Give primary care clinicians (pediatricians, family practitioners, general practitioners, mid-level prescribers, Federally Qualified Health Centers/Rural Health Clinics) access to child and adolescent psychiatrists who can assist with managing Amerigroup members with complex psychotropic medication management needs.
- Operate 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except holidays.
- Cover the following components:
 - Peer to peer (physician to prescriber)
 - Pharmacological consultation.
 - Treatment of side effects and adjunct therapy.

How do I refer to the Amerigroup SOCAP consultation service?

You can refer any eligible Amerigroup members (participating in Georgia Families and Georgia Families 360SM programs) between 0-18 years of age who have complex psychotropic medication management regimens by submitting a completed referral form to United Behavioral Health Solutions (UBHS). To access the form, go to <https://providers.amerigroup.com/GA> > Behavioral Health Screening Tools > Psychotropic Medication Consultation. The completed form or written request from a primary care prescriber can be submitted through the following:

- Email to referrals@ubhsinc.com
- Fax to 770-212-2203
- For requests outside of normal operation hours, please contact UBHS at 404-783-8309.

Upon submission of a written request from a primary care prescriber, a child and adolescent psychiatrist will review the request and provide a written response to the prescriber within 1-2 hours of request via encrypted email. The prescriber will receive an individual link where they can access SOCAP's response or they may also be contacted via phone if the situation is extremely complex. Prescribers who prefer a telephonic consultation should use the form and specify that they would like a telephonic call back on the form — This process has a 24-hour turnaround time.

If you have any trouble with the submission, please call UBHS at 404-783-8309.

How can I help?

Please adhere to the prescribing safety guidelines outlined below:

- Monotherapy regimens for a given disorder of specific target symptoms should be tried before polypharmacy regimens.
- One medication change should be made at a time (except for cross-tapers).
- Polypharmacy (i.e., the use of two or more medications for the same indication or specific mental disorder) is discouraged and requires specific justification (except for different forms of the same medication).
- A signed medication consent form should be obtained and kept in the child's medical record.
- The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) psychotropic medication consent process should be followed per DFCS policy.
- This program is provided at no cost to Amerigroup providers or members.

Why is this change necessary?

This program is a part of our continuing effort to improve the management and oversight of psychotropic medications prescribed to youth and adolescents. This program does not replace the current prior authorization process.

What is the impact of this change?

All psychiatric practitioners can now access the expert knowledge of child and adolescent psychiatrists to assist in the management of psychotropic medications for Amerigroup members.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

If you are a child and adolescent psychiatrist and would like to participate in this program as a virtual psychotropic medication consultant, please contact Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.