Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications for Individuals with Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is a chronic and disabling psychiatric disorder that requires ongoing treatment and monitoring. As many as 60% of individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia do not take medications as prescribed. Poor adherence can lead to hospitalization and interfere with the recovery process.

What Can Providers Do to Improve Outcomes?

- Follow up with individuals to confirm that they are taking their medications.
- Encourage individuals to talk to their prescriber if they are experiencing adverse medication side-effects.
- Develop person-centered plans for medication reminders:
  - Text messages.
  - Automated phone calls.
  - Alarms.
  - Signs in the individual’s home.
  - Technology-equipped pillboxes that provide prompts of the appropriate times to take medications.

- Address risk factors and barriers associated with non-adherence, such negative stigmas, homelessness, and substance use. Interventions focused on these factors may improve outcomes for individuals with the highest danger of non-adherence related relapse.

  When able, include natural supports such as a family member or caregiver in discussions regarding treatment.

The information presented by Alliance Health above is for informational purposes only. It is not intended for use in lieu of state guidelines or service definitions nor is it to be used to guide individualized treatment. Please refer to your Medicaid contract for additional details.