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TODAY'S MESSAGE

2014 CHILDHOOD OBESITY PHYSICIAN TOOL KIT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Highmark recently posted the 2014 Childhood Obesity Physician Tool Kit on our online Provider Resource Center to support you in caring for pediatric patients with weight management issues. Available under the *Clinical Reference Materials* link, this updated version of the kit provides fresh information and insights, to help you and your staff continue the battle against childhood obesity. Inside the kit, you'll find tips for effective communication with families, strategies to maintain healthy weight in children, body mass index charts for boys and girls, a patient assessment checklist and several parent/caregiver tools addressing various nutritional topics.

The kit includes a one-page document detailing the Preventive Childhood Obesity benefit for members with the Preventive Schedule, including diagnosis and procedure codes that need to be used when submitting claims. Children who are overweight (BMI 85th to 94th percentile) or obese (BMI 95th to 98th percentile)* receive a total of four preventive office visits billed with a diagnosis code for overweight or obesity, plus four nutritional counseling session visits, plus one set of recommended lab work annually without cost-sharing (no copayments and no deductibles). Lab work includes: Cholesterol screening, AST, ALT and either Hemoglobin A1c or Fasting Glucose.

Also included is the recently published "Alliance for a Healthier Generation Physician Guide," which provides additional materials and resources, along with recommendations for topics to cover during each physician office visit and each nutritional counseling session.

With your help and clinical expertise, we can partner to effectively address the growing problem of childhood obesity. We encourage you to share this tool kit with your clinical office staff and visit this page often to make use of the kit's valuable information and practitioner tools.

Additionally, a Childhood Obesity Poster is available for posting in your office and will be mailed to you free of charge. Simply complete the Educational Materials Order Form on the Provider Resource Center. On the Provider Resource Center, the form is available by clicking *Clinical Reference Materials* and *Quality Management Partners in Quality Tool Kit*; then, select *Educational Materials* and, lastly, *Educational Materials Order Form*.

*Morbid obesity (a BMI ≥ 99th percentile) may be covered under medical benefits with cost-sharing based on the individual member plan but is not covered under preventive benefits.

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