



# Clinical Monograph

## Report addresses use of psychotropic drugs in treatment of children and adolescents

Magellan Health has developed a report providing in-depth analysis of an issue of current relevance to behavioral health practitioners and primary care providers. The report is titled, *Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Drugs in Children and Adolescents: A Clinical Monograph*. Magellan's intent is to share important research to support practitioner decision-making about the use of psychotropic medications for this age group.

The clinical monograph has been prepared for use by primary care physicians, including pediatricians, and behavioral health practitioners treating children and adolescents. It provides an **analysis of the current high rate of use of psychotropic drugs in treating young patients, an evidence-based review of medications (including dosage ranges) used to treat specific behavioral health disorders, and the common side effects of those medications.**

Magellan's research examines the **current issues around risks and potential overuse of psychopharmacological options** with the young population. It is important that psychiatrists, medical practitioners, and other prescribing

clinicians appropriately monitor children and adolescents taking psychotropic medications, coordinate care among all treating providers, and educate parents about medications, including side effects.

Equally important, the monograph emphasizes the role of parents and caregivers in making the informed decision to use psychotropic medication in children. The principles outlined in Magellan's monograph represent good medical practice for treating children.

The Magellan monograph points out that, **to-date, the effects of psychotropic medications on child development are not well known**, including the long-term neurological effects on a child's central nervous

system. It also is important to note that many of the commonly prescribed drugs have not been specifically studied and approved for use with children and youth. While Magellan is not opposed to the use of psychotropic medications in the treatment of this population, **an evidence-informed and judicious approach to the use of these medications is warranted.**

The Magellan clinical monograph was designed to assist providers in making appropriate treatment decisions based on the latest industry research, but is not meant to replace the sound clinical judgment of treating providers.

**See the monograph and more resources online!**

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Our solutions > Children's services > Appropriate use of psychotropic medications in children.