

Behavioral Health Follow Up After Hospital Discharge within 7 Days: Quality Improvement Project

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that approximately 17% of youth, 6-17 years of age, experience a mental health disorder each year. Additionally, 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24.

The Partners For Kids (PFK) Quality Improvement (QI) Coaching Program offers a QI project to assist community behavioral health providers with meeting the HEDIS measure designed for patients 6 years of age and older who have been discharged from the hospital for a behavioral health concern, and should be provided follow-up care in an outpatient setting within seven days.

This QI project will support one of the measures on the PFK Behavioral Health Provider Incentive Plan (PIP), also known as 7 Day Follow Up. Services that qualify for 7 Day Follow Up include:

- Outpatient visits with mental health practitioner (MHP)
- Intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization with MHP
- Community mental health center visit with MHP
- Electroconvulsive therapy with MHP
- Telehealth visit with MHP
- Observation visit with MHP
- Transitional care management services with MHP

Resources are available to support the QI project, including:

- PFK QI technical support to improve processes for identifying patients hospitalized for a mental health concern and ensuring that they are seen within 7 days of discharge
- Training from NCH-affiliated pediatric specialists for behavioral health providers on evidence-based practices
- Consultation with a PFK pharmacist, including education on the Behavioral Health Prescribing Guidelines (which can be found at: <https://PartnersForKids.org/resources>)

For more information about PFK QI projects, please contact PFK QI Coaching at PFKQICoaching@NationwideChildrens.org

