



January 15, 2026

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for being a valuable member of our Partners For Kids' network and your ongoing commitment to caring for Partners For Kids members. I am pleased to share the 2026 Partners For Kids Behavioral Health Provider Incentive Plan (BH PIP) that continues to align with the Ohio Department of Medicaid's behavioral health priorities for children. The BH PIP has been endorsed by your peer representatives on the Partners For Kids BH PIP committee who are actively providing behavioral health care for Partners For Kids members in community practices. The following describe the 2026 BH PIP and highlight changes from the previous year:

- Additional training opportunities to meet the education requirement will be available
- OhioRISE data is now being incorporated in the Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visits for both Mental Illness and Substance Use
- The Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visits for both Mental Illness and Substance Use now focus exclusively on follow-up within 7 days

Partners For Kids will continue to illustrate your practice's performance trends. PFK Quality Improvement Advisors are eager to lend their support to your practice to boost performance toward the 7 day follow up incentive measures.

We will offer three Q&A sessions for those who may have questions regarding the 2026 plan. Those sessions may be joined by calling 305.224.1968 with meeting ID 506 165 4438. A link will be included in the January 2026 newsletter and an accompanying email. All three will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 7:30 – 8:00 am, 12:30– 1:00 pm, and 5:00– 5:30 pm.

Again, we value the opportunity to collaborate with you on promoting the health and well-being of all our Partners For Kids' members. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your PFK Provider Relations representative (central region: PFKProRelations@NationwideChildrens.org, west region: PFKProRelations@ChildrensDayton.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gavin Baumgardner, DO
Chief Medical Officer

Sean Gleeson, MD
President

2026 PFK Behavioral Health Provider Incentive Plan Summary

Element	2025	2026
<p>Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of at least 1 PFK-supported training session by 60% of the providers credentialed as of January 1 within each group (tax ID) between January 1 – December 31, 2026 • Individual providers may participate in the following for individual credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participation in a PFK Behavioral Health Education series training session ○ Attendance at a Behavioral Health in Primary Care webinar ○ Meeting with PFK Staff, including a medical director, PFK pharmacist, asthma or constipation educator, or provider relations specialist ○ Participation or membership with a PFK committee ○ Participation in a Project ECHO Educational Program • Participation in the following during 2026 will earn a 30% Credit (of credentialed providers) toward the goal for the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participation in a PFK-Sponsored Quality Improvement Project ○ Participation in the Behavioral Health Integration program 	Active (Target 60%)	Active (Target 60%)
<p>Patient Engagement in Psychosocial Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes new patients with a diagnosis of ADHD and Disruptive Behaviors, Anxiety, Trauma, OCD, Autism, Depression or Bipolar • Includes interview, evaluation, consultation, psychological and psychiatric evaluation and therapy services provided in an outpatient setting • In a rolling 4-month period, patient must at least 4 visits total. There is no requirement to have at least one visit in two separate months 	\$150.00 PSP*	\$135.00 PSP*
<p>Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes <u>any patient ages 0-17</u> with a diagnosis of mental illness or intentional self-harm during an emergency room visit who has a follow-up with a provider within 7 days of discharge • Visits on the date of admission to the emergency department (Day Zero) do not count • Dates of Service for January 1, 2026 and later will include OhioRISE data 	≤ 7 Days: \$600.00 PSP* ≤ 30 Days: \$100.00 PSP*	≤ 7 Days: \$300.00 PSP* ≤ 30 Days: Inactive
<p>Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Substance Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes <u>any patient ages 10-17</u> with a diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD) or any diagnosis of drug overdose during an emergency room visit who has a follow-up visit with a provider within 7 days of discharge • Visits on the date of admission to the emergency department (Day Zero) do not count • Dates of Service for January 1, 2026 and later will include OhioRISE data 	≤ 7 Days: \$600.00 PSP* ≤ 30 Days: \$100.00 PSP*	≤ 7 Days: \$300.00 PSP* ≤ 30 Days: Inactive
<p>Completion of Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes any child with a CANS assessment completed during the calendar year who becomes enrolled in OhioRISE • Applies only to a child of any age regardless of whether they had a CANS assessment previously administered 	\$125.00 PSP*	\$50.00 PSP

* PSP = payment on a Per Successful Patient basis. Please note that your practice will continue to receive reimbursement from the applicable Ohio Medicaid Fee Schedule for each adjudicated claim.

** PFK can provide additional details regarding definitions of “new patient” as well as CPT, diagnosis codes and providers included in each measure

*** Aside from the CANS Assessment Metric, OhioRISE members will be excluded from the behavioral health incentive program



2026 Behavioral Health Incentive Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What metrics have changed from 2025 to 2026?*

A: Partners For Kids has implemented several changes for 2026:

- Additional education opportunities will be made available to satisfy the educational requirement
- The two metrics for Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness or Substance Use only include patients seen within 7 days of discharge from the emergency department. The 30-day metrics have been discontinued.
- OhioRISE data is now included for both the Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness and for Substance Use

Q: *Why has PFK made adjustments to the Follow Up After ED Visit metrics?*

A: PFK's overarching goal of these metrics is to ensure PFK members that are discharged from the ED complete an appropriate follow up after discharge. PFK is aligning these metrics with the definitions and structure used in the Outcome Acceleration for Kids (OAK) Learning Network in Ohio.

PFK has also received consistent feedback from the provider network that OhioRISE data be incorporated into these metrics. Starting with dates of service 1/1/2026 and beyond, calculations for the ED follow up metrics will utilize the data PFK has begun to receive from Aetna for OhioRISE patients.

Q: *Why is OhioRISE data only being included for the Follow-up after Mental Health and Substance Abuse measures?*

A: The OhioRISE members are included in the OAK denominator, and PFK is aligning with the OAK metrics when possible.

Q: *Why are the Follow-up after Mental Health and Substance Abuse measures limited to follow up within 7 days?*

A: Partners For Kids recognizes that access to mental health services is a critical need for our members. As such, many patients will visit their primary care provider for their behavioral health concerns. The focus on 7 days specifically aligns with OAK and is identical to that of the Partners For Kids Behavioral Health PIP. The OAK expanded measures can be accessed here: <http://partnersforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/OAK-Expanded-Measure-Methodology-Document-BH.pdf>



Q: *If a patient receives multiple services in one day, do they count as 1 visit or multiple visits?*

A: They would count as one visit. (Maximum one visit per date of service.)

Q: *How will I know if a patient I have seen is discharged from an emergency department for a mental health or substance use concern?*

A: Partners For Kids now receives CliniSync data which allows for more real-time reporting on your patients and their healthcare utilization. If you have access to the Partners For Kid's Provider Portal and would like to receive email notifications when your patients are at an emergency department, please contact your Provider Relations representative to add this functionality to your portal access.

Q: *What projects does PFK offer for Quality Improvement?*

A: PFK currently offers the following projects:

- Follow Up After ED Visit for Mental Illness
- Follow Up After ED Visit for Substance Abuse

Q: *Training will be offered free to credentialed (independently licensed) providers. Will there be a charge for dependently licensed and/or paraprofessionals to attend?*

A: Dependently licensed and paraprofessionals are not required but are welcome to attend training sessions at no charge.

Q: *Does the patient engagement metric include established patients in any way?*

A: The patient engagement metric applies to new patients defined as a patient who has not been seen within your organization (based on tax ID) within the prior 90 days. So, it is possible for a patient who has previously received services from your organization but has not done so within the past 90 days to be included in this metric. It is also possible for an established patient to be included if they receive a new diagnosis that qualifies for the incentive. Please contact your Provider Relations representative or the PFK Provider Portal for qualifying diagnoses.

Q: *The Patient Engagement metric triggers an incentive payment after the fourth visit. Are there additional incentive payments for visits 5+?*

A: No; however, if the patient discontinues treatment and then re-engages after 90 days of inactivity, they would meet the criteria as a new patient and would create eligibility for an incentive if they meet all the other criteria for the metric.



Q: *Some patients receive services at multiple agencies. Can a patient meet the criteria for incentive at more than one provider organization?*

A: Yes.

Q: *I still have questions. How can I get answers?*

A: Contact your PFK Provider Relations representative:
Central Region: PFKProRelations@NationwideChildrens.org
West region: PFKProRelations@ChildrensDayton.org