



# Provider Engagement Reduces Concurrent Utilization of Antipsychotics

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# Statements of Disclosure

All research was conducted by Magellan Rx Management, Scottsdale, AZ without external funding.

Crystal Henderson and Kristin Brown-Gentry are both employed by Magellan Rx Management.

# Magellan Health: One company, two unique platforms



## *Focused on Complex Populations, Delivering Differentiated Services*

State Medicaid programs and integrated management for special populations, including individuals with serious mental illness and those needing long-term services and supports

Behavioral health management and employee assistance programs

Specialty healthcare management, including musculoskeletal, cardiac and advanced imaging

**25.3 million**  
commercial  
behavioral lives

**25.1 million**  
commercial  
specialty lives

**5.1 million**  
lives in  
government  
programs



Offices in 26  
states & D.C.



## *Full-Service PBM Focused on High-Growth Specialty Spend*

Full-service Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) that expands beyond traditional core services

Value-driven solutions: targeted clinical and powerful engagement strategies, advanced analytics, leading-edge specialty pharmacy programs

More than 40 years of Medicaid and more than 30 years of self-funded employer experience

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program

**13.3 million**  
medical pharmacy  
lives

**1.9 million**  
commercial  
PBM lives

**26 states**  
& Washington, DC  
in State Medicaid  
PBA business



10,000  
Total Employees

# Agenda

- Background/Context
- Intervention Details
- Intervention Evaluation and Results
- Discussion



# Literature Review of Antipsychotic Polypharmacy

***“Despite guidelines recommending the use of polypharmacy only as a last resort, the use of antipsychotic polypharmacy for prolonged periods is very common during the treatment of schizophrenia patients in usual care settings.”***

Faries, D., Ascher-Svanum, A., Zhu, B., Correll, C., Kane, J. Antipsychotic Medication Prescribing Practices Among Adult Patients Discharged From State Psychiatric Inpatient. *BMC Psychiatry*. 2005; 5(26): 283-297.

***“There is clear evidence that antipsychotic polypharmacy presents complications for the patient, including risk of drug interactions, increased medication side effects, increased risk for metabolic disorders, and complex medication regimens, which may lead to medication nonadherence among patients.”***

Ortiz, G., Hollen, V. and Schacht, L., 2016. Antipsychotic Medication Prescribing Practices Among Adult Patients Discharged From State Psychiatric Inpatient Hospitals. *Journal of Psychiatric Practice*. 2016; 22(4): 283-297.

***“[Antipsychotic Polypharmacy] is related to patient, illness, and treatment variables that all point toward a greater illness acuity, severity, and chronicity. However, there also seem to be provider characteristics at play that suggest that, at least, some [antipsychotic polypharmacy] may be idiosyncratic or unfounded. The latter idea is supported by studies suggesting that more than half of patients on longer-term [antipsychotic polypharmacy treatment] can be safely and successfully converted to antipsychotic monotherapy.”***

Correll, C., Gallego, J. Antipsychotic Polypharmacy: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Relevant Correlates of a Long-Standing Clinical Practice. *Psychiatry Clin. North Am.* 2016; 35(3): 661-681.

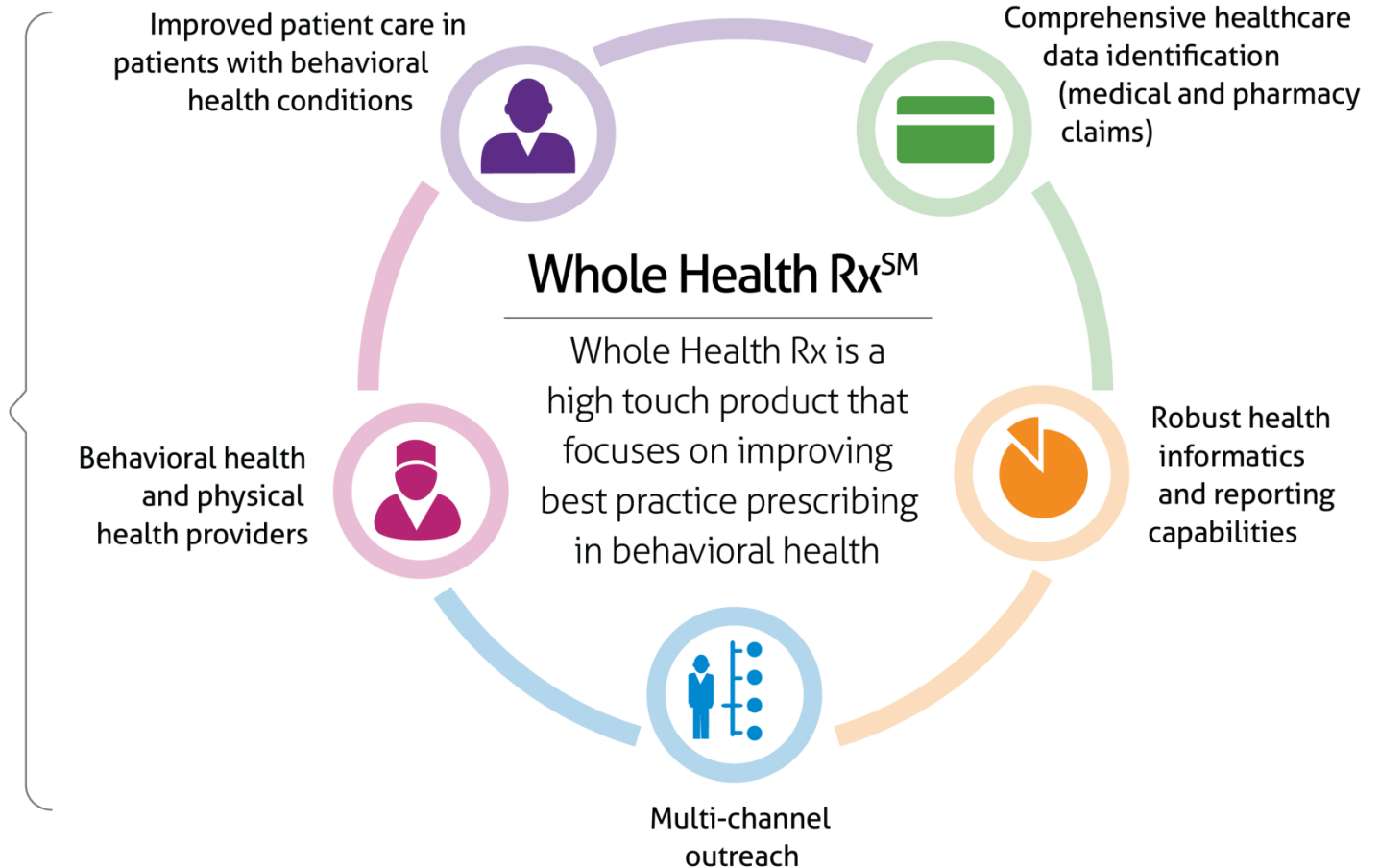
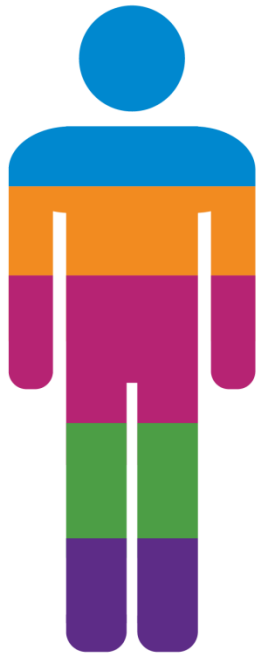
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# Whole Health Rx:

## Our Approach to Whole Patient Management



# Behavioral Health Center of Excellence

- The Behavioral Health Center of Excellence is a multi-disciplinary team which includes adult and child/adolescent psychiatrists, board certified psychiatric pharmacists, substance abuse specialists, primary care providers, nurses and social workers
  - Quarterly evaluations of the most recent clinical guidelines, literature, and prescribing trends will lead to the development of new algorithms
  - Create provider letters
  - Review and update current algorithms and provider material

- Support and assist in:



Offer SME  
Expertise in  
Behavioral Health



Peer-to-Peer  
Discussions



Policy  
Development



New Drug  
Reviews



Treatment  
Guidelines

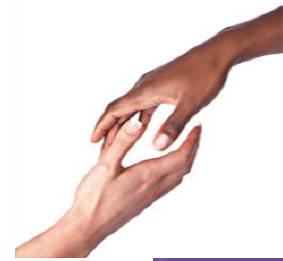


# Antipsychotic Polypharmacy Clinical Template



## Clinical Considerations

- There is limited literature to support the efficacy and safety of antipsychotic polypharmacy (AAP) or the clinical superiority of AAP over monotherapy.
- A complex medication regimen may increase the potential for adverse effects, poor adherence, and adverse drug-drug interactions.
- AAP has been shown to independently predict both shorter treatment duration and discontinuation before 1 year.
- There is strong association between extra pyramidal side effects and AAP in studies.
- AAP may increase the risk of metabolic syndrome.



## Requested Actions

- Determine if nonadherence to monotherapy has resulted in duplicative therapy. If so, identify reasons for nonadherence, remove barriers and consider use of long acting injectables.
- If the patient has a partial response to one medication at maximal dose, review medication profile for other medications that can decrease plasma levels or efficacy of the drug.
- Consider a trial of clozapine monotherapy if the patient has had suboptimal response to at least two antipsychotic monotherapy trials.
- If the patient is receiving antipsychotics from multiple providers, consider discussing treatment plans with the other providers and consolidate regimen.
- Determine if the patient is refilling a medication that has been discontinued.

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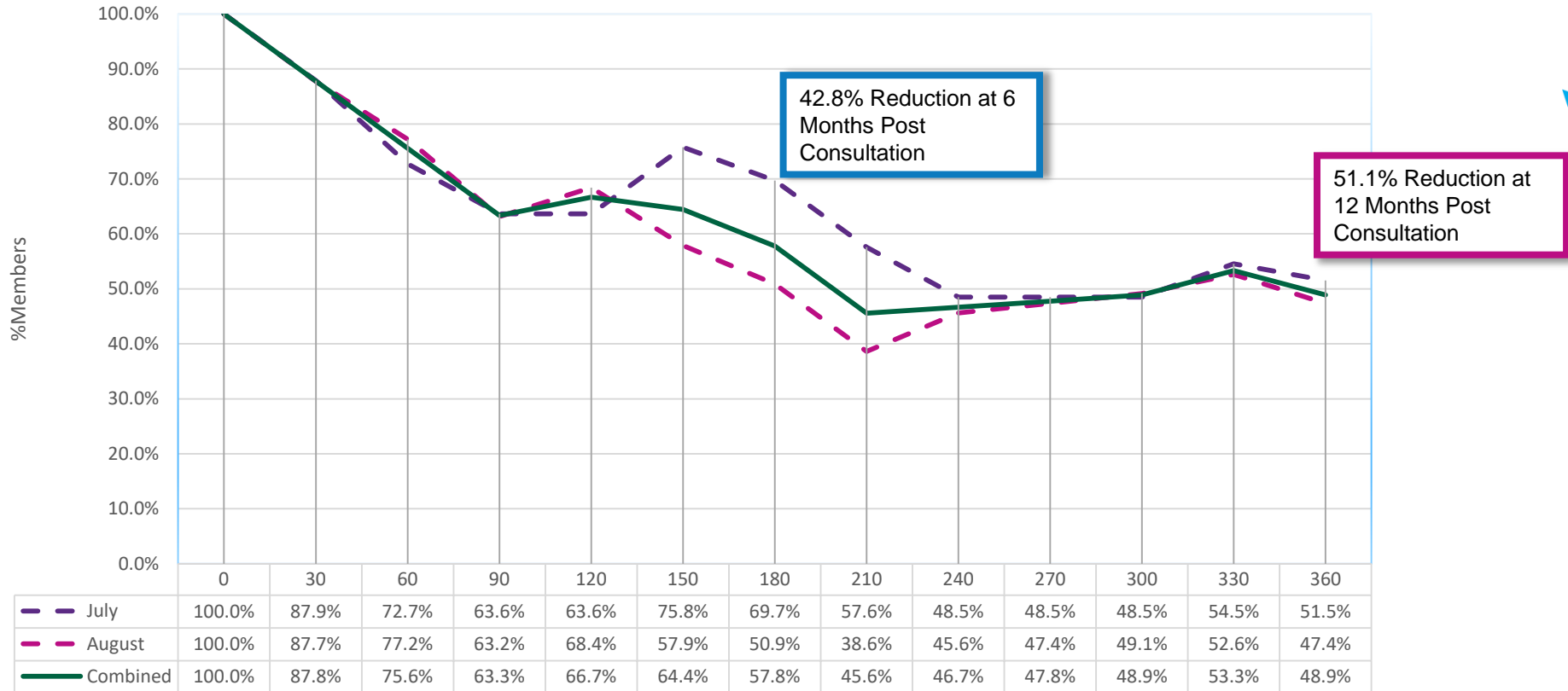


# Antipsychotic Polypharmacy Evaluation

- Purpose
  - To evaluate the clinical and economic impact of the Whole Health Rx Antipsychotic Polypharmacy algorithm on prescribing utilization trends
- Methodology
  - Employed a six month cross-sectional study design
  - SAS version 9.4 was used to extract claims data and intervention data for all members that were prescribed two or more antipsychotics during a 30 day window
  - Proxy for continuous enrollment – URAC’s Pharmacy Benefit Management Performance Measurement Specifications
    - Two or more claims
    - Claims with a date of service that spanned 150 or more days
  - Members without claims during the post intervention period were excluded
- Eligible Sample
  - 49 distinct prescribers received an intervention
  - 90 distinct members identified as being prescribed two or more antipsychotics during a 30 day window and whose provider received an Antipsychotic Polypharmacy intervention
  - All consultations were face-to-face visits and were performed during between July and August 2016

# Results

## Percentage of Members Prescribed Two or More Antipsychotics Concurrently Over Time



### Key Takeaways

- Observed 15.5% reduction in antipsychotic utilization: 1,253 claims to 1,059 claims
- Average PMPM count of antipsychotics decreased from 2.4 to 2.0 ( $p < 0.0001$ )
- Observed a 59.3% reduction in the number of members prescribed 3+ antipsychotics
- Observed a 7.8% reduction in the number of members prescribed 2+ antipsychotics
- Continued reduction in members prescribed antipsychotics concurrently after the 6 month evaluation window

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# Provider Barriers Specific to Antipsychotic Polypharmacy

- “You don’t know my patients. They are more difficult than other providers.”
- Use of off-label, low dose Seroquel adjunct to other antipsychotics
- As needed use of a second antipsychotic agent
- Second agent is augmenting the other or being used to treat side effects of the first
- It is better to use two agents at low doses than a full dose of one
- Provider misconceptions (long acting injectables are not covered)

## Key Takeaways

- Providers are unaware their patients are nonadherent vs. medication was ineffective
- Providers are still not using clozapine or long acting injectable antipsychotics
- Lack of coordination of care
  - Members continue picking up their previous antipsychotic that had been discontinued along with the new one.
  - No medication reconciliation at hospital discharge resulting in patients taking old and newly prescribed antipsychotics

# General Program Barriers

- Incorrect provider contact information (addresses, telephone numbers)
- Obtaining appointments
- Large territory/Pharmacist to target provider ratio
- Delay in claims data
- Provider requests for customizable reports

# Successful Strategies

- Introduce program through office in-services – “Road Shows”
- When all else fails, just show up at the office
- Value of face to face interaction
- Format of the clinical packet (concise, patient specific)
- Providing expertise beyond academic detailing
  - Aiding providers with health plan issues and questions (formulary questions, prior authorizations)
  - Being available to provide clinical consultation services or other education to providers/offices
- Leveraging our Behavioral Health Center of Excellence/Key Opinion Leaders
- Outcomes, Outcomes, Outcomes!!!!



# Provider Comments



This is a **great** program. Would you be willing to present the trends of my providers?

I can't believe so many of my patients are getting **duplicate** therapy.

Your algorithms are in line with a number of our performance improvement projects. Could you send our provider's **monthly reports**?

It is great that the state provides a program like this focusing specifically on **patients** with mental illness.

I was surprised and unaware of the adherence issues with some patients and polypharmacy with others. I am **glad** you brought me this information.

I **support** this initiative and would be willing to assist with any changes Magellan proposes.

# Questions?

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“ LEADING HUMANITY TO  
HEALTHY, VIBRANT LIVES ”