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# **Drug Use Evaluation: Melatonin Usage in Pediatric and Adult Members**

## **Research Questions:**

- 1. How have the number of prescriptions for sedative medications (e.g., benzodiazepines, melatonin receptor agonists, non-benzodiazepine hypnotics) changed since the addition of melatonin coverage to the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) fee-for-service (FFS) pharmacy benefit for pediatric members?
- 2. What proportion of pediatric members receiving prescriptions for melatonin have a diagnosis for insomnia or a comorbid diagnosis predisposing them to insomnia (e.g., depression, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or autism spectrum disorder), indicating that treatment with melatonin is warranted?
- 3. Are the daily doses of melatonin for pediatric members appropriate, defined as 3 to 5 mg, as recommended by clinical practice guidelines (e.g., evidence-based dosing)?
- 4. If insomnia was added as a funded disease state, what proportion of adults have received a prescription for a sedative for longer than 30 days in the past year and could potentially benefit from the coverage of melatonin?
- 5. If funding of insomnia medications depended on trial of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), how many adults would be eligible for such coverage with the documentation of at least one claim for CBT?

## **Conclusions:**

- The total percentage of prescriptions written for melatonin and other sedative medications has remained unchanged since the addition of melatonin to the pharmacy benefit for pediatric members. However, melatonin utilization has improved through a 43.5% increase in paid claims while benzodiazepines paid claims decreased by 41.8%.
- 57.5% of pediatric members have a comorbid diagnosis that predisposes them to insomnia. However, only 21.3% have a diagnosis of insomnia and 36.3% have no diagnosis that supports the use of melatonin.
- Among all age groups of pediatric members, the average daily dose of melatonin when initially prescribed was within the recommended 3-5 mg by clinical guidelines. Members between 13 and 18 years old did have an average daily dose of 4.9 mg, compared to members between 6 and 12 years old who had an average daily dose of 3.5 mg
- Among adults receiving sedative prescriptions, 43% received long-term sedatives (defined as a total of 30 or more days).
- Among adult members receiving a long-term sedative, 49.8% have a least one claim for CBT.

#### **Recommendations:**

No policy changes recommended.

# Background:

The consequences of sleep loss on daytime functions are more well documented in adults than in children. However, one comparative study has examined the impact of sleep duration on emotional functioning and cognitive performance in children. The results showed that modest differences, more than one hour

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over two weeks, can affect emotional functioning, short-term memory, working memory, attention, and math fluency. Based on these findings, the authors recommend that children experiencing difficulties in any of these areas be screened for sleep problems as a potential cause.

In children, behavioral sleep problems, or behavioral insomnia, are characterized by bedtime refusal or resistance, delayed sleep onset, and prolonged night awakenings requiring parental intervention.<sup>2</sup> This can negatively affect the quality of life for children and carries an increased risk of mood and behavioral problems, academic failure, and worsened health related conditions.<sup>2</sup>

Chronic behavioral insomnia is estimated to occur in 10 to 30 percent of children depending on the exact definition used and the specific age group being studied.<sup>2</sup> Some subgroups of children experience a higher prevalence of insomnia, including those with psychiatric comorbidities, neurodevelopmental disorders, genetic syndromes, and acquired conditions.<sup>2</sup> **Table 1** summaries subgroups of children more likely to experience insomnia.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1.** Pediatric Subgroups Predisposed to Insomnia<sup>2</sup>

Psychiatric	Neurodevelopmental	Genetic	Acquired
Depression	Attention deficit hyperactivity	Smith-Magenis Syndrome	Fetal alcohol syndrome
Anxiety	disorder	Angelman Syndrome	
Stress	Autism spectrum disorder		

Prior to the initiation of pharmacologic interventions, it may be appropriate to obtain a sleep history by using one of several tools.<sup>2</sup> The BEARS survey, which looks at Bedtime issues, Excessive daytime sleepiness, night Awakenings, Regularity and duration of sleep, and Snoring, or sleep diaries can help clinicians decide the primary problem.<sup>2</sup> Common causes of insomnia include bedtime resistance, difficulty initiating or maintaining sleep, and behavioral disorders.<sup>2</sup> Poor sleep hygiene, including light and screen time before bed, may also be a cause of sleep disruption in children.<sup>3</sup>

The decision to initiate pharmacotherapy for insomnia in children should be based on efficacy, side effects, safety, and ethical considerations.<sup>4</sup> Specific side effects to consider include increased risk of inability to sleep without use of medications and daytime sleepiness associated with prescription sedatives. For some children, despite the previously mentioned considerations, sedatives and hypnotics may deemed appropriate therapy for insomnia.<sup>4</sup> In particular, the use of melatonin has increased in the United States over the past decade as treatment for insomnia in children.<sup>4</sup> This trend may be due to the relative safety of melatonin compared to prescription sedatives. Adverse effects from melatonin include headache, dizziness, nightmares, and excessive daytime sleepiness.<sup>5</sup>

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine clinical practice guideline, based on moderate quality evidence from a singular study, weakly recommends treatment with strategically timed melatonin versus no treatment in children and adolescents with delayed sleep-wake phase disorder.<sup>6</sup> This trial found improved sleep latency with a mean difference ranging from 38.39 minutes to 44.24 minutes depending on the dosage of melatonin given.<sup>6</sup> The clinical guideline proposes the same weak recommendation, based on low quality evidence from two reviewed studies, for treatment in children and adolescents with delayed sleep-wake phase disorder and comorbid psychiatric conditions.<sup>6</sup> A separate systematic review evaluated the effectiveness of pharmacotherapy for sleep disturbances in children with cognitive disabilities.<sup>7</sup> Of the 13 trials included in the review, 12 evaluated the efficacy of oral melatonin.<sup>7</sup> The pooled mean difference for the trials showed a 29.6 minutes increase in sleep time with melatonin, which was statistically significant. However, almost all of the trials had high or unclear risk of bias.<sup>7</sup> Melatonin at dosages ranging from 3-5 mg may be effective in children and adolescents.<sup>6</sup>

In October 2021, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) added melatonin coverage to the OHP FFS pharmacy benefit for members 18 years of age or younger. All other sleep drugs still require a prior authorization (PA), including benzodiazepines which are only approved for an initial 30 days. In addition, melatonin is not covered for adult members and insomnia remains an unfunded condition. This drug use evaluation examines utilization of melatonin in pediatric OHP members, including appropriate dosage and indication, as well as associated costs due to the addition of melatonin to the pharmacy benefit plan. Furthermore, this drug use evaluation will provide insight into overall melatonin utilization in adults OHP members.

## Methods:

# Melatonin Coverage in Children Policy Evaluation

To evaluate changes in utilization, members 18 years of age or younger with a paid or denied FFS claim for melatonin or other sedatives (**Appendix 1**) from 10/01/2020 to 12/31/2022 were included.

The index event (IE) was defined as the first paid or denied FFS claim for a new start melatonin or other sedative (members without a history of melatonin or other sedative use in the past three months) in the evaluation window. If members had a paid and denied claim on the same day, the claim was classified as paid. For each member, the baseline and follow-up periods were defined based on the IE:

- The baseline period was defined as 6 months prior to the IE (exclusion of the IE).

Members were categorized into the following groups based on the IE.

- (1) First claim for melatonin or sedative medication from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 (pre-policy change)
- (2) First claim for melatonin or sedative medication from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 (post-policy change)

Average daily dose was collected and categorized into dosing groups (< 3 mg, 3-5 mg, > 5 mg) based on the IE dosage.

# Inclusion Criteria:

Paid or denied FFS claim for melatonin or other sedatives (Appendix 1). Denied claims were included if they were associated with error codes of 3002 "NDC requires PA", 4002 "No coverage for billed NDC", 3022 "Non-Preferred Drug, PA Required", 1017 "Non-rebatable eligible indicator", or 1016 "Non-participating manufacturer" without any of the error codes listed in Appendix 1.

## Exclusion criteria:

- Patients with Medicare Part D coverage or limited or no Medicaid drug benefit in the baseline period.

Category	Benefit Package	Description
Medicare Part D coverage	BMM	Qualified Medicare Beneficiary + Oregon Health Plan with Limited Drug
	BMD	Oregon Health Plan with Limited Drug
	MED	Qualified Medicare Beneficiary
Limited or no Medicaid drug benefit	MND	Transplant package
	CWM	Citizenship Waived Emergency Medical
		Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Only

SMF	Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Only
SMB	

- Patients with primary insurance coverage (i.e., third party liability [TPL]) in the baseline period
- Patients with non-continuous Medicaid enrollment in the baseline period
- Patients with Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) enrollment on the IE date
- Patients identified in both pre- and post-policy groups will be excluded from the post-policy change group

#### Outcomes:

- Proportion of members prescribed melatonin or other sedative who have a diagnosis of insomnia, delayed sleep-wake phase disorder, depression, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or autism spectrum disorder based on medical claims in the baseline period (**Appendix 1**).
- Proportion of members who have a paid or denied FFS claim for melatonin and the dosage prescribed.

# Sedative Coverage in Adults

## Inclusion Criteria:

- Members > 18 years old with a paid FFS claim for a sedative medication from 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022 will be identified.

The IE was defined as the first paid FFS claim for sedative in the evaluation window. For each member, the baseline and follow-up periods were defined based on the IE:

- The baseline period was defined as 6 months prior to the IE (exclusion of the IE).
- The follow-up period was defined as the 45 days following the IE (inclusive of the IE).

#### **Exclusion Criteria:**

- Patients with Medicare Part D coverage or limited or no Medicaid drug benefit in the baseline period

Category	Benefit Package	Description
Medicare Part D coverage	BMM	Qualified Medicare Beneficiary + Oregon Health Plan with Limited Drug
	BMD	Oregon Health Plan with Limited Drug
	MED	Qualified Medicare Beneficiary
Limited or no Medicaid drug benefit	MND	Transplant package
	CWM	Citizenship Waived Emergency Medical
	SMF	Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Only
	SMB	Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Only

- Patients with primary insurance coverage (i.e., third party liability [TPL]) in the baseline period
- Patients with non-continuous Medicaid enrollment in the baseline period
- Patients with non-continuous FFS enrollment in the follow-up period
- Patients with CCO coverage during the follow-up period

#### Outcomes:

- Proportion of adult members who have an FFS paid claim for long-term sedative medications (30 days based on day supply)
- Documentation of any visits for CBT during the baseline period. Documentation of CBT was identified using medical service codes (Appendix 1).

# **Results:**

In OHP FFS, 1,669 pediatric members during the pre-policy time period and 1,610 in the post-policy time period were identified as having a paid or denied claim for melatonin or other sedative medication. After all the exclusion criteria were applied, 126 pediatric members from the pre-policy period and 80 from the post-policy period were included for analysis. For adults, 32,716 members were identified as having an FFS claim for melatonin or other sedative; however, only 762 were included for analysis after the exclusion criteria was applied. Details regarding the number of patients included from the analysis can be found below in **Tables 1A and 1B**.

Table 1A: Population of included pediatric patients

	Pre-I	Policy	Post-	Policy
Number of included pediatric patients	#	%	#	%
Pediatric paid or denied claim for melatonin or sedative medication	1,669		1,610	
After exclusion of Medicare Part D, limited benefit plans, and TPL	1,310	78.5%	1,315	81.7%
After exclusion of non-continuous Medicaid enrollment in the baseline period	1,242	74.4%	1,245	77.3%
After exclusion of patients enrolled in a CCO on the index date	126	7.5%	93	5.8%
After exclusion of members in Post group who were already in the Pre group	126	7.5%	80	5.0%

Table 1B: Population of included adult patients

Number of included adult patients	#	%
Adult paid FFS claim for melatonin or sedative medication	32,716	
After exclusion of Medicare Part D, limited benefit plans, and TPL	30,715	93.9%
After exclusion of non-continuous Medicaid enrollment in the baseline period	28,535	87.2%
After exclusion of non-continuous FFS enrollment in the follow-up period	762	2.3%

Table 3: New start sedative prescriptions in pediatric patients

Before						Afte	r				
Paid Cl	laim	Denied (	enied Claim Total		Paid Claim		Denied Claim		Total		
59	%	67	%	126	%	69	%	11	%	80	%
58	98.3%	8	11.9%	66	52.4%	39	56.5%	6	54.5%	45	56.3%
	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%
1	1.7%		0.0%	1	0.8%		0.0%	1	9.1%	1	1.3%
	0.0%	59	88.1%	59	46.8%	30	43.5%	4	36.4%	34	42.5%
	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	1	1.4%		0.0%	1	1.3%
	59	58 98.3% 0.0% 1 1.7% 0.0%	Paid Claim Denied 0   59 % 67   58 98.3% 8   0.0% 1 1.7%   0.0% 59	Paid Claim Denied Claim   59 %   58 98.3%   0.0% 0.0%   1 1.7%   0.0% 59   88.1%	Paid Claim Denied Claim Total   59 % 67 % 126   58 98.3% 8 11.9% 66   0.0% 0.0% 1 1.7% 0.0% 1   1 1.7% 0.0% 59 88.1% 59	Paid Claim Denied Claim Total   59 % 67 % 126 %   58 98.3% 8 11.9% 66 52.4% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.8% 0.0% 1 0.8% 0.0% 59 88.1% 59 46.8%	Paid Claim Denied Claim Total Paid Claim   59 % 67 % 126 % 69   58 98.3% 8 11.9% 66 52.4% 39   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.8%   1 1.7% 0.0% 1 0.8%   0.0% 59 88.1% 59 46.8% 30	Paid Claim Denied Claim Total Paid Claim   59 % 67 % 126 % 69 %   58 98.3% 8 11.9% 66 52.4% 39 56.5%   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%   1 1.7% 0.0% 1 0.8% 0.0%   0.0% 59 88.1% 59 46.8% 30 43.5%	Paid Claim Denied Claim Total Paid Claim Denied Claim   59 % 67 % 126 % 69 % 11   58 98.3% 8 11.9% 66 52.4% 39 56.5% 6   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 0.0	Paid Claim Denied Claim Total Paid Claim Denied Claim   59 % 67 % 126 % 69 % 11 %   58 98.3% 8 11.9% 66 52.4% 39 56.5% 6 54.5%   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%   1 1.7% 0.0% 1 0.8% 0.0% 1 9.1%   0.0% 59 88.1% 59 46.8% 30 43.5% 4 36.4%	Paid Claim Denied Claim Total Paid Claim Denied Claim Total   59 % 67 % 126 % 69 % 11 % 80   58 98.3% 8 11.9% 66 52.4% 39 56.5% 6 54.5% 45   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 1 1 1 1 9.1% 1 1 1 0.0% 30 43.5% 4 36.4% 34

During the pre-policy time period all information on melatonin dosages came from denied claims. Among those denied claims, 13.6 percent were for a daily dose less than 3 mg, 45.8 percent was for 3 to 5 mg, and 40.7 was for a dose greater than 5 mg. The average daily dose of these claims was 3.2 mg for pediatric members 0 to 5 years old, 5 mg for 6 to 12 years old, and 5.2 mg for 13 to 18 years old.

Following the policy change, the statistics for melatonin prescriptions is based on both paid and denied claims. Among the claims for melatonin 8.8 percent were for a daily dose less than 3 mg, 61.8 percent were for 3 to 5 mg, and 29.4 percent were for a dose greater than 5 mg. The average daily dose of these claims was 3.0 for pediatric patients 0 to 5 years old, 3.5 mg for 6 to 12 years old, 4.9 for 13 to 18 years old. All of this information can be found below in **Table 4**.

**Table 4. Melatonin prescription statistics** 

	Before								Af	ter		
	Paid	Claim	Denied Claim		Total		Paid Claim		Denied Claim		Total	
	0	%	59	%	59	%	30	%	4	%	34	%
Daily Dose of Melatonin at IE												
< 3 mg		0.0%	8	13.6%	8	13.6%	3	10.0%		0.0%	3	8.8%
3-5 mg		0.0%	27	45.8%	27	45.8%	20	66.7%	1	25.0%	21	61.8%
> 5 mg		0.0%	24	40.7%	24	40.7%	7	23.3%	3	75.0%	10	29.4%
Average Daily Dose of Melatonin at IE by Age												
0-5		•	3.2	,	3.2		3.0		,	•	3.0	
6-12			5.0		5.0		3.0		5.0		3.5	
13-18			5.2		5.2		4.3		10.0		4.9	

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During the pre-policy period, 22.2 percent of claims were for insomnia with no claims for delayed sleep-wake phase disorder. For comorbidities contributing to insomnia, 36.5 percent of pediatric members had a diagnosis of depression, 33.3 percent had anxiety, 27 percent had ADHD, and 4 percent had autism. Among all diagnoses, 57.1 percent of pediatric members had any comorbid diagnosis and 34.9 percent had no diagnosis (neither insomnia nor a comorbid diagnosis).

In the post-policy period, 1.3 percent of claims were for a sleep disorder and 20 percent were for insomnia. In terms of comorbidities related to insomnia, 30 percent of pediatric members had a diagnosis of depression, 37.5 percent had anxiety, 26.3 percent had ADHD, and 11.3 percent had autism. Of those diagnoses, 57.5 percent of pediatric members had any comorbid diagnosis and 36.6 percent had no diagnosis. Information on the proportions of paid and denied claims for the diagnoses can be found below in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Pediatric patient diagnoses in the 6 months before the index event

Before				After							
Paid C	Paid Claim		Denied Claim		ıl	Paid C	laim	Denied (	laim	Tota	ıl
59	%	67	%	126	%	69	%	11	%	80	%
	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	1	1.4%		0.0%	1	1.3%
13	22.0%	15	22.4%	28	22.2%	15	21.7%	1	9.1%	16	20.0%
	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%
12	20.3%	34	50.7%	46	36.5%	20	29.0%	4	36.4%	24	30.0%
17	28.8%	25	37.3%	42	33.3%	27	39.1%	3	27.3%	30	37.5%
7	11.9%	27	40.3%	34	27.0%	19	27.5%	2	18.2%	21	26.3%
4	6.8%	1	1.5%	5	4.0%	7	10.1%	2	18.2%	9	11.3%
23	39.0%	49	73.1%	72	57.1%	40	58.0%	6	54.5%	46	57.5%
29	49.2%	15	22.4%	44	34.9%	24	34.8%	5	45.5%	29	36.3%
	13 12 17 7 4 23	13	12 20.3% 34 17 28.8% 25 7 11.9% 27 4 6.8% 1 23 39.0% 49	59 % 67 %   0.0% 0.0% 0.0%   13 22.0% 15 22.4%   0.0% 0.0%   12 20.3% 34 50.7%   17 28.8% 25 37.3%   7 11.9% 27 40.3%   4 6.8% 1 1.5%   23 39.0% 49 73.1%	59 % 67 % 126   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 28   13 22.0% 15 22.4% 28   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 46   17 28.8% 25 37.3% 42   7 11.9% 27 40.3% 34   4 6.8% 1 1.5% 5   23 39.0% 49 73.1% 72	59 % 67 % 126 %   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%   13 22.0% 15 22.4% 28 22.2%   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%   12 20.3% 34 50.7% 46 36.5%   17 28.8% 25 37.3% 42 33.3%   7 11.9% 27 40.3% 34 27.0%   4 6.8% 1 1.5% 5 4.0%   23 39.0% 49 73.1% 72 57.1%	59 % 67 % 126 % 69   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 13 22.0% 15 22.4% 28 22.2% 15 15 0.0% 0.0% 15 0.0%	59 % 67 % 126 % 69 %   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 1.4%   13 22.0% 15 22.4% 28 22.2% 15 21.7%   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%   12 20.3% 34 50.7% 46 36.5% 20 29.0%   17 28.8% 25 37.3% 42 33.3% 27 39.1%   7 11.9% 27 40.3% 34 27.0% 19 27.5%   4 6.8% 1 1.5% 5 4.0% 7 10.1%   23 39.0% 49 73.1% 72 57.1% 40 58.0%	59 % 67 % 126 % 69 % 11   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 1.4% 1 1.4% 1 1.4% 1 1.4% 1 1.4% 1 1.4% 1 1.4% 1 1.4% 1 1.2 1.7% 1 1 1.2 1.7% 1 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 0.0% 1 1.4% 1 0.0% 1 1.4% 1 0.0% 1 1.4% 1 1.0% 0.0% 1 1.4% 1 1.0% 0.0% 1 1.4% 1 1.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 1.4% 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 0.0% 1 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 4 0.0% 0.0% 4 0.0% 0.0% 4 0.0% 0.0% 4 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	59 % 67 % 126 % 69 % 11 %   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 1.4% 0.0%   13 22.0% 15 22.4% 28 22.2% 15 21.7% 1 9.1%   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%   12 20.3% 34 50.7% 46 36.5% 20 29.0% 4 36.4%   17 28.8% 25 37.3% 42 33.3% 27 39.1% 3 27.3%   7 11.9% 27 40.3% 34 27.0% 19 27.5% 2 18.2%   4 6.8% 1 1.5% 5 4.0% 7 10.1% 2 18.2%   23 39.0% 49 73.1% 72 57.1% 40 58.0% 6 54.5%	59 % 67 % 126 % 69 % 11 % 80   0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1 1.4% 0.0% 1 9.1% 1 1.4% 0.0% 1 9.1% 16 16 0.0% 0.0% 1 9.1% 1 9.1% 16 0.0%

Among the adult members with a prescription for sedative medications, 328 met the defined criteria for having long-term sedative prescriptions. Of these members, 92.1 percent of long-term sedative medications prescribed were benzodiazepines. In addition, only 27.7 percent of patients with sedative prescriptions and 32.0 percent of those long-term sedative prescriptions have documentation of CBT. More information on sedative prescriptions in adult members can be found below in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Adult patients with long-term sedative prescriptions

	All		With History	of CBT
Adult Patients with sedative prescriptions	762	%	211	%
Adult Patients with <i>long-term</i> sedative prescriptions	328	43.0%	105	49.8%
Benzodiazepines	302	39.6%	97	46.0%
Melatonin-receptor agonists	1	0.1%		0.0%
Non-benzodiazepine hypnotics	25	3.3%	8	3.8%
Melatonin		0.0%		0.0%
	20	0.070	· ·	

#### **Discussion:**

The addition of melatonin to the OHP FFS pharmacy benefit increased utilization and access for pediatric members. However, there was no evidence of impact to benzodiazepines or other sedative prescriptions from opening access to melatonin. While the proportion of paid claims for benzodiazepines did decrease, there were no additional policy changes to explain why this may have occurred. A potential benefit to benzodiazepines usage may be seen in the fact that only one member received a prescription for benzodiazepines 90 days after starting melatonin. Further studies will be needed to determine if requiring trial of melatonin could prevent new starts of benzodiazepines.

Sixty-five percent of pediatric members had insomnia or comorbidity predisposing them to insomnia. While it represents a minority, the 21 percent of members without any diagnosis remains concerning. These patients may benefit from deprescribing if they are receiving a sedative without a corresponding indication.

Many claims for melatonin were for dosages consistent with clinical practice guidelines. Average higher daily doses were seen in older adolescents, which could coincide with weight-based dosing. Based on the average doses seen in pediatric members, there are no concerns for adding quantity limits to melatonin at this time.

In adults, 43 percent of sedative prescriptions were for long-term sedatives defined as a total of more than 30 days. Among adults on long-term sedative prescriptions, only 32 percent had documentation of CBT. It is difficult to determine if coverage of insomnia would benefit many adult members since only a minority of sedative prescriptions are for long-term use, and an unknown number of prescriptions are being used for insomnia. In addition, if documentation of CBT is required for payment of insomnia medications, even fewer adult members will benefit from the additional coverage.

## **Limitations:**

Medicaid includes a significant proportion of members who are only transiently enrolled in FFS. Often members are quickly enrolled into a CCO upon eligibility for Medicaid and remain in FFS for only a few months. In order to accurately capture data from this population in the analysis, a baseline period of 6 months was required. However, this limitation led to several assumptions when identifying pediatric members who were starting melatonin or a sedative. Members were assumed to not be receiving a new start if they met the following criteria: had prior claims for melatonin or other sedatives paid by Medicaid. However, there is a limitation to this definition, and it is possible that members were previously paying out of pocket for sedative medication or purchasing melatonin over-the-counter.

- A significant proportion of pediatric patients were excluded because they had partially incomplete claims data due to other primary insurance or were not eligible for Medicaid for the required 6-month baseline period. After all exclusion criteria, about 7.5% of pediatric members in the pre-policy group and 5% in the post policy group were included for analysis. This study assumes that included members would still be representative of most pediatric patients prescribed melatonin or other sedatives in Medicaid.
- In order to fairly assess if the policy change had any impact on melatonin and other sedative use in pediatric members, a 3-month gap period was left between the end of the pre-policy evaluation period and the beginning of the post-policy evaluation period. It was assumed that 3 months would be long enough for providers to adjust their prescribing patterns; however, it may not have allowed for enough for such changes to occur.
- This analysis relied on evidence-supported diagnoses and conditions that have been shown to predispose children to insomnia. However, any diagnoses that are commonly accepted in clinical practice without being documented in current literature would have been excluded.
- This analysis defined long-term sedative use in adults as 30 days, based on total days' supply. This definition assumes that prescriptions totaling less than 30 days' supply are not considered long-term, regardless of the quantity or how long the prescription may last. However, it is possible that members are not taking the medication as frequently as their prescriber has allowed. In this scenario, members could be sporadically using sedative medications for many months, but would not have been included in this analysis.
- In order to find claims data for CBT, this analysis relied on a list of medical service codes. The list was based on common service codes found during preliminary research. Since the research for services codes occurred through online resources, without the consultation of a clinician or subject matter expert, it is possible that some service codes were unintentionally omitted. As such, a higher proportion of adults on long-term sedative medications may be documentation of CBT than the number portrayed in this study.
- This analysis included benzodiazepines for treatment of insomnia and other sleep disorders. However, benzodiazepines are commonly prescribed for other indications not related to sleep, including medical and dental procedures.

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# Appendix 1. Data Coding

# Table A1. Melatonin GSN codes

GSN	Form	Generic	Туре
026076	Tablet	Melatonin	Extended-release
071898	Tablet	Melatonin	Extended-release
076846	Tablet	Melatonin	Extended-release
077022	Tablet	Melatonin	Extended-release
024665	Tablet	Melatonin	Immediate-release
039195	Tablet	Melatonin	Immediate-release
041568	Tablet	Melatonin	Immediate-release
063960	Tablet	Melatonin	Immediate-release
069202	Tablet	Melatonin	Immediate-release
081048	Tablet	Melatonin	Immediate-release
068895	Tablet Rapid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
070353	Tablet Rapid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
071356	Tablet Rapid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
075697	Tablet Rapid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
080947	Tablet Rapid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
081652	Tablet Rapid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
070234	Tablet Chew	Melatonin	Immediate-release
073498	Tablet Chew	Melatonin	Immediate-release
079871	Tablet Chew	Melatonin	Immediate-release
082032	Tablet Chew	Melatonin	Immediate-release
048015	<b>Tablet Sublingual</b>	Melatonin	Immediate-release
070888	Tablet Sublingual	Melatonin	Immediate-release
073509	Tablet Sublingual	Melatonin	Immediate-release
080957	Lozenge	Melatonin	Immediate-release
053232	Drops	Melatonin	Immediate-release
083165	Drops	Melatonin	Immediate-release
061740	Liquid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
071047	Liquid	Melatonin	Immediate-release
032584	Capsule	Melatonin	Immediate-release
040954	Capsule	Melatonin	Immediate-release
061738	Capsule	Melatonin	Immediate-release

# Table A2. Diagnosis codes

Condition	ICD-10 Diagnosis Code
Sleep Disorders	
Behavioral insomnia of children	Z73.819
Insomnia	G47X, F51X
Delayed Sleep-Wake Phase Disorder	G47.21X
Depression	
Depressive Episode	F32X
Recurrent Depressive Disorder	F33X
Persistent Mood Affective Disorders	F34X
Anxiety	
Other Anxiety Disorders	F41X
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	F90X
Childhood Autism	F840

# Table A3. Medical service codes for CBT

1 4010 / 10	With the distance of the control of
Code	Description
90785	Psytx complex interactive
90791	Psytx diagnostic evaluation
90792	Psytx diagnostic evaluation with medication services
90832	Psytx with patient 30 minutes
90833	Psytx with patient with evaluation and management 30 minutes
90834	Psytx with patient 45 minutes
90836	Psytx with patient with evaluation and management 45 minutes
90837	Psytx with patient 60 minutes
90838	Psytx with patient with evaluation and management 60 minutes
90839	Psytx crisis initial 60 minutes
90840	Psytx crisis each additional 30 minutes
90845	Psychoanalysis
90847	Family psytx with patient 50 minutes
90853	Group psychotherapy
90899	Psychiatric service/therapy
9615X	Health and behavior assessment

Table A4. Error codes associated with denied claims that are excluded from the analysis

Error Code	Description
4999	THIS DRUG IS COVERED BY MEDICARE PART D
2508	RECIPIENT COVERED BY PRIVATE INSURANCE (PHARMACY)
2002	RECIPIENT NOT ELIGIBLE FOR HEADER DATE OF SERVICE
2507	RECIPIENT HAS MORE THAN ONE INSURANCE CARRIER
513	RECIPIENT NAME AND NUMBER DISAGREE
503	DATE DISPENSED AFTER BILLING DATE
628	Other Coverage Reject Code Required for OCC 3
205	PRESCRIBING PROVIDER ID MISSING
502	DATE DISPENSED EARLIER THAN DATE PRESCRIBED
214	DATE PRESCRIBED IS INVALID
268	BILLED AMOUNT MISSING
271	HEADER TOTAL BILLED AMOUNT INVALID
269	DETAIL BILLED AMOUNT INVALID
500	DATE PRESCRIBED AFTER BILLING DATE
222	DAYS SUPPLY INVALID
221	DAYS SUPPLY MISSING
238	RECIPIENT NAME IS MISSING
1040	PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN NOT ENROLLED
1026	PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN ID NOT ON FILE
1001	BILLING PROV HAS NO CONTRACTS FOR DOS
2017	RECIPIENT SERVICES COVERED BY HMO PLAN
2809	DOB IS INVALID
2804	CASE NUMBER NOT ON FILE
4014	NO PRICING SEGMENT ON FILE

Table A5. Drug definitions for other sedative drugs

<b>Drug Category</b>	<b>Generic Drug Name</b>	HSN
Benzodiazepines	Alprazolam	001617
	Chlordiazepoxide HCl	001610
	Clonazepam	001894
	Diazepam	001615
	Lorazepam	004846
	Midazolam	001619
	Oxazepam	001616
	Temazepam	001592
	Triazolam	001594
Melatonin Receptor Agonists	Ramelteon	033126
	Tamsimelteon	072007
Non-Benzodiazepine Hypnotics	Eszopiclone	026791
	Zaleplon	020347
	Zolpidem tartrate	007842