

PQA Opioid Measure Set

For each of the measures, a lower rate indicates better performance.

Use of Opioids at High Dosage in Persons Without Cancer (OHD) (NQF #2940)

The percentage of individuals ≥ 18 years of age who received prescriptions for opioids with an average daily dosage of ≥ 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) over a period of ≥ 90 days. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- PQA endorsed May 2015 (Updated in 2018, for use in 2019).
- NQF endorsed March 2017 (#2940).

Examples of Implementation/Use

- Medicaid Adult Core Set since 2016.
- Medicaid 1115 Substance Use Disorder Demonstrations.
- Medicare Part D Patient Safety reports since 2016 (updated measure since 2019).
- Medicare Part D Display page for 2021 (2019 data) and 2022 (2020 data).
- CMS will consider rulemaking to include the measure in Medicare Part D Star Ratings beginning with 2023 (2021 data).
- Medicare Shared Savings Program starting in 2020.

Use of Opioids from Multiple Providers in Persons Without Cancer (OMP) (NQF #2950)

The percentage of individuals ≥ 18 years of age who received prescriptions for opioids from ≥ 4 prescribers and ≥ 4 pharmacies within ≤ 180 days. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- PQA endorsed May 2015 (Updated in 2018, for use in 2019).
- NQF endorsed March 2017 (#2950).

Examples of Implementation/Use

- Medicaid 1115 Substance Use Disorder Demonstrations.
- Medicare Part D Patient Safety reports since 2016 (updated measure since 2019).
- Medicare Part D Display page for 2021 (2019 data) and 2022 (2020 data).
- CMS will consider for the 2023 Medicare Part D Star Ratings (2021 data) pending rulemaking.
- Medicare Shared Savings Program starting in 2020.

Use of Opioids at High Dosage and from Multiple Providers in Persons Without Cancer (OHDMP) (NQF #2951)

The percentage of individuals ≥ 18 years of age who received prescriptions for opioids with an average daily dosage of ≥ 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) over a period of ≥ 90 days AND who received prescriptions for opioids from ≥ 4 prescribers AND ≥ 4 pharmacies within ≤ 180 days. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- PQA endorsed May 2015 (Updated in 2018, for use in 2019).
- NQF endorsed March 2017 (#2951).

Examples of Implementation/Use

- Medicaid 1115 Substance Use Disorder Demonstrations.
- CMS retired from the Medicare Part D Display page for 2022 (2020 data).

Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB) (NQF #3389)

The percentage of individuals ≥18 years with concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines for ≥30 cumulative days. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- PQA endorsed December 2016.
- NQF endorsed October 2018 (#3389).

Examples of Implementation/Use

- Medicaid Adult Core Set since 2018.
- Medicaid 1115 Substance Use Disorder Demonstrations.
- Medicare Part D Patient Safety reports since 2018.
- Medicare Part D Display page for 2021 (2019 data) and 2022 (2020 data).
- CMS will consider for the 2023 Medicare Part D Star Ratings (2021 data) pending rulemaking.

Initial Opioid Prescribing at High Dosage (IOP-HD)

The percentage of individuals ≥18 years of age with ≥1 initial opioid prescriptions with an average daily morphine milligram equivalent (MME) of ≥50. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- PQA endorsed May 2019.

Initial Opioid Prescribing for Long Duration (IOP-LD) (NQF #3558)

The percentage of individuals ≥18 years of age with ≥1 initial opioid prescriptions for >7 cumulative days' supply. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- PQA endorsed May 2019.
- NQF endorsed November 2020 (#3558).

Examples of Implementation/Use

- Medicare Part D Patient Safety reports since 2020.
- CMS plans to add to the Medicare Part D Display page for 2023 (2021 data) and 2024 (2022 data).

Initial Opioid Prescribing for Long-Acting or Extended-Release Opioids (IOP-LA)

The percentage of individuals ≥18 years of age with ≥1 initial opioid prescriptions for long-acting or extended-release opioids. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- PQA endorsed May 2019.

Annual Monitoring for Persons on Long-Term Opioid Therapy (AMO) (NQF #3541)

The percentage of individuals 18 years and older who are prescribed long-term opioid therapy and have not received a drug test at least once during the measurement year. (Excludes patients in hospice care and those with cancer).

- PQA stewardship 2019.
- NQF endorsed July 2020 (NQF #3451).

Examples of Implementation/Use

- 2021 Health Insurance Marketplace Quality Rating System (QRS) (measurement year 2020).

For questions about PQA measures, please use the [Technical Assistance Request](#) form or contact MeasureUse@PQAalliance.org.

Last Update: January 2021.