PQA Opioid Measures

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 or palliative care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- 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).

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 or palliative care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- 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).

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 or palliative care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)

- NQF endorsed March 2017 (#2951).

Examples of Implementation/Use
- Medicaid 1115 Substance Use Disorder Demonstrations.
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 or palliative 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.

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 or palliative 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 or palliative care and those with cancer or sickle cell disease.)
- PQA endorsed May 2019.
- NQF endorsed November 2020 (#3558).

Examples of Implementation/Use
- CMS plans to add to the Medicare Part D Display page starting in 2023 (2021 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 or palliative 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 or palliative care and those with cancer).
- PQA stewardship 2019.
- NQF endorsed July 2020 (NQF #3451).

Examples of Implementation/Use
- Health Insurance Marketplace Quality Rating System (QRS) since 2021 (2020 data).

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