



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.)

- 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.
- Medicare Part D Display page since 2021 (2019 data).

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.)

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

Examples of Implementation/Use

- Medicare Part D Display page since 2021 (2019 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 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.
- Medicare Part D Display page since 2021 (2019 data).
- CMS proposed addition to the 2026 Star Ratings (2024 data) through rulemaking (CMS-4201-P)

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

- Medicare Part D Patient Safety reports since 2020.
- Medicare Part D Display page since 2023 (2021 data).

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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