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Use of Opioids at High Dosage

# Use of Opioids at High Dosage in Persons Without Cancer

## Description

- This measure quantifies the percentage of adults who received opioids with an average daily dosage  $\geq 90$  morphine milligram equivalents (MME) over a period  $\geq 90$  days.
- Eligible patients must:
  - Be  $\geq 18$  years old
  - Have  $\geq 2$  claims for opioid medications on different dates of service
  - Have a cumulative opioid days' supply  $\geq 15$  days
- Only includes select opioid medications and formulations.
  - E.g., excludes all buprenorphine-containing products
- MME conversion factors used for this measure are for retrospective evaluation and are not intended for clinical decision-making.



## Did You Know?

- Opioid dosages  $\geq 50$  MME/day have at least twice the risk of overdose compared to  $< 20$  MME/day.<sup>1</sup>
- Consider offering naloxone to patients at an increased risk of overdose, such as those with a total daily opioid dose  $\geq 50$  MME/day or those concurrently taking benzodiazepines.<sup>2</sup>

1 [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating\\_total\\_daily\\_dose-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf) [Accessed 6/24/2020]

2 Dowell D, Haegerich TM, Chou R. CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2016. MMWR Recomm Rep 2016;65(No. RR-1):1–49. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr6501e1external> icon.



## Calculation

### NUMERATOR =

The number of eligible patients with an average daily dosage  $\geq 90$  MMEs

### DENOMINATOR =

The number of eligible patients with  $\geq 2$  claims for an opioid and cumulative days' supply  $\geq 15$  days

## Exclusions

- Enrolled in hospice
- Have cancer or sickle cell disease
- More than one gap in enrollment or a single gap in enrollment  $> 31$  days
- Days between first opioid claim and last opioid claim plus its days' supply is  $< 90$  days\*

*\*Not applied for year-to-date reports released between March and July to enable outlier calculations early in the calendar year.*



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