

Description

- This measure quantifies the percentage of elderly patients with concurrent use of ≥ 2 unique anticholinergic (ACH) medications.
- Eligible patients must:
 - Be ≥ 65 years old
 - Have ≥ 2 claims for the same ACH medication
- Each ACH medication requires ≥ 2 claims on different dates of service to be included in the calculation.
- Concurrent use is the number of days with overlapping days' supply for ≥ 2 ACH medications.

Exclusions

- Enrolled in hospice care
- More than one gap in enrollment or a single gap in enrollment > 31 days long
- First ACH medication claim is < 30 days from the end of the measurement period



Did You Know? **

- The American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria[®] contains a list of medications that are potentially inappropriate for older adults.^{1,2}
- ACH medications are associated with multiple side effects.³ Some of these include:
 - Confusion
 - Constipation
 - Dry mouth
 - Urinary retention
 - Blurred vision

** 1. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2019;67(4):674-694.
 2. <https://www.americangeriatrics.org/media-center/news/older-people-medications-are-common-updated-ags-beers-criteriar-aims-make-sure> [Accessed 6/2/2020]
 3. <https://www.pharmacytimes.com/publications/issue/2015/July2015/Anticholinergic-Drug-Interactions> [Accessed 6/2/2020]



Calculation

NUMERATOR =

The number of eligible patients with concurrent use for ≥ 30 days of ≥ 2 unique anticholinergic medications

DENOMINATOR =

The number of eligible patients with ≥ 2 claims for the same anticholinergic medication

Therapeutic Categories Include*:

First Generation Antihistamines

Antiparkinsonian Agents

Skeletal Muscle Relaxants

Antidepressants

Antipsychotics

Antiarrhythmic

Antimuscarinics (urinary incontinence)

Antispasmodics

Antiemetics

**only includes select medications and dosage forms*