*Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD)**

***This measure was adapted with permission by NCQA from the "Continuity of Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder" measure owned by The RAND Corporation.**

Description

The percentage of new opioid use disorder (OUD) pharmacotherapy events with OUD pharmacotherapy for 180 or more days among members age 16 and older with a diagnosis of OUD.

Definitions

Intake period	A 12-month period that begins on July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and ends on June 30 of the measurement year.
OUD dispensing event	OUD pharmacotherapy identified using pharmacy data (medication lists).
OUD medication administration event	OUD pharmacotherapy identified using medical claims data.
Treatment period start date	The date of an OUD dispensing event or OUD medication administration event with a negative medication history during the Intake Period.
Negative medication history	To qualify for Negative Medication History, the following criteria must be met: A period of 31 days prior to the OUD dispensing event or OUD medication administration event when the member had no OUD dispensing events or OUD medication administration events. A period of 31 days prior to the OUD dispensing event or OUD medication administration event when the member was not already receiving OUD pharmacotherapy. For example, if an OUD dispensing event has a date of service of January 1, the 31 days prior includes December 1–31. If the member had received a buprenorphine implant (180 days supply) any time during the 179 days prior to December 1, the member is already receiving OUD pharmacotherapy on December 1 and does not have a negative medication history.
Treatment period	A period of 180 calendar days, beginning on the Treatment Period Start Date through 179 days after the Treatment Period Start Date. ***Note:*** *Members can have multiple Treatment Period Start Dates and Treatment Periods during the measurement year. Treatment Periods can overlap.*

Determining same or different medications

Medication lists that are in the same row of the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Medications table are the "same medication." For example, if a member has a Buprenorphine Oral dispensing event and a Buprenorphine Oral encounter, this is considered two dispensing events for the same medication.

Medication lists that are in different rows of the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Medications table are "different medications." For example, if a member has a Buprenorphine Oral dispensing event and a Buprenorphine Injection dispensing event, this is considered two dispensing events for different medications.

Direct transfer

A **direct transfer** is when the discharge date from the first inpatient setting precedes the admission date to a second inpatient setting by one calendar day or less. For example:

- An inpatient discharge on June 1, followed by an admission to another inpatient setting on June 1, is a direct transfer.
- An inpatient discharge on June 1, followed by an admission to an inpatient setting on June 2, is a direct transfer.

An inpatient discharge on June 1, followed by an admission to another inpatient setting on June 3, is not a direct transfer; these are two distinct inpatient stays.

Use the following method to identify admissions to and discharges from inpatient settings.

1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays.
2. Identify the admission and discharge dates for the stay.

Eligible Population

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from the eligible population. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines

Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately).

Ages

16 years and older as of December 31 of the measurement year. Report two age stratifications and total rate:

16–64 years.

65 years and older.

Total.

The total is the sum of the age stratifications.

Continuous enrollment

31 days prior to the Treatment Period Start Date through 179 days after the Treatment Period Start Date (211 total days).

Allowable gap

None.

Anchor date

None.

Benefits

Medical and pharmacy.

Event/diagnosis Follow the steps below to identify eligible events.

Step 1 Identify members with any diagnosis of opioid use disorder (OUD) during the Intake Period.

Step 2 For each member identified in step 1, identify all OUD dispensing events or OUD medication administration events during the Intake Period. Use all medication lists in the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Medications table below to identify OUD dispensing events and OUD administration events.

Step 3 Test for Negative Medication History. For each OUD dispensing event or OUD medication administration event in step 2, test for a Negative Medication History. Exclude events that do not have a negative medication history. All remaining events with a negative medication history are considered Treatment Period Start Dates.

Step 4 Exclude any Treatment Period Start Dates where the member had an acute or nonacute inpatient stay of eight or more days during the Treatment Period:

1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays.
2. Identify the admission and discharge dates for the stay.
3. Calculate length of stay (LOS) as the admission date through and including the discharge date. If there are direct transfers between stays, add the LOS from any subsequent direct transfers to the initial LOS to calculate a total LOS.

For example:

Exclude a July 1 Treatment Period Start Date where a member was admitted for an inpatient hospital stay on August 1 and discharged on August 8 (LOS = 8 days).

Exclude a July 1 Treatment Period Start Date where a member had an acute inpatient stay (admission date August 1; discharge date August 4; LOS = 4 days), followed by a direct transfer to a nonacute inpatient facility (admission date August 5; discharge date August 8; LOS = 4 days). Total LOS = 8 days.

Step 5 Calculate continuous enrollment. Members must be continuously enrolled from 31 days prior to the Treatment Period Start Date through 179 days after the Treatment Period Start Date (211 total days).

Note: *All Treatment Period Start Dates (OUD dispensing events or OUD medication administration events) that were not excluded remain in the denominator. The denominator for this measure is based on events, not members.*

Administrative Specification

Denominator The eligible population.

Numerator New OUD pharmacotherapy events with OUD pharmacotherapy for 180 or more days without a gap in treatment of 8 or more consecutive days.

Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Medications

Description	Prescription
Antagonist	Naltrexone (oral)
Antagonist	Naltrexone (injectable)
Partial agonist	Buprenorphine (sublingual tablet)
Partial agonist	Buprenorphine (injection)
Partial agonist	Buprenorphine (implant)
Partial agonist	Buprenorphine/ naloxone (sublingual tablet, buccal film, sublingual film)
Agonist	Methadone (oral)

Note

- *Methadone is not included on the medication lists for this measure. Methadone for OUD administered or dispensed by federally certified opioid treatment programs (OTP) is billed on a medical claim. A pharmacy claim for methadone would be indicative of treatment for pain rather than OUD.*