

IHS Opioid Surveillance Dashboard Measures

November 2023

Background

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Opioid Surveillance Dashboard (OSD) contains measures to help providers and health systems use available **dispensing data** to plan and track opioid related activities. Use this fact sheet as a guide for understanding the metric definitions and for ideas on using the data in practice to promote patient safety and reduce risk.

References

- [Opioid Surveillance Dashboard User Manual; pages 9-11](#)
- [IHS Opioids Data Website](#)
- [Opioid Stewardship in the Indian Health Service](#)
- [OIG Toolkit: Using Data Analysis to Calculate Opioid Levels and Identify Patients at Risk of Misuse or Overdose](#)

Please Note

1. While the IHS OSD is dispensing data, it does not verify that the medications were actually dispensed to the patient.
2. The word “dispensed” is used for all prescription data. However, this includes prescriptions e-prescribed to an outside pharmacy where it is unknown whether the prescription was dispensed. Therefore, in the case of e-prescribed opioids, the data are based on the number prescribed and not necessarily the number dispensed.
3. Buprenorphine is not included in opioid-specific measures.
4. This dashboard does not allow for consideration of patient diagnosis and individual review to evaluate the impact of hospice and cancer diagnosis in analysis and comparisons.
5. Morphine milligram equivalents (MMEs) are calculated using the formula: *Strength per Unit X (Number of Units/Days Supply) X MME conversion factor*. The IHS OSD is using conversion factors provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in its [Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain \(November 2022\)](#).
6. Total daily MMEs (TDMMEs) are the sum of all MMEs a patient is prescribed to take each day.
7. Patient naloxone refusal: See file named, “Documenting a Refusal for Naloxone”
8. Naloxone documented as an outside medication is not captured by the IHS OSD at this time. For further information on documenting naloxone, see the [Opioid Surveillance Dashboard User Manual](#).
9. Given that each site may be sending data at a slightly different interval, by default, all charts will exclude data points that are likely incomplete.
10. All graphs will be displayed based on the filters selected by the user (e.g., facility, fiscal year vs. month, etc.).

Measures

Number of Opioid Prescriptions (# Opioid Rx) Dispensed

Explanation: Number of prescriptions for any opioid-containing medication dispensed to the patient

Total MME (TMME) Dispensed

Explanation: Sum of all morphine milligram equivalents (MMEs) dispensed

Average Daily MME (ADMME) Dispensed

- Numerator: Sum of the daily MME (DMME) of each prescription
- Denominator: Total number of opioid prescriptions in the specified time period
- Explanation: The DMME of a prescription is the TMME divided by the day's supply of that prescription.

Percentage of All Prescriptions Dispensed That Were Opioid Prescriptions (% Opioid Rx)

- Numerator: Number of opioid prescriptions dispensed
- Denominator: Total number of prescriptions dispensed

Total MME/100 Rx (TMME/100 Rx) Dispensed

- Numerator: Sum of all MMEs dispensed
- Denominator: Total number of prescriptions times 100, divided by total (all) scripts dispensed
- Explanation: The addition of a denominator creates a ratio and normalizes the data, making the data more useful when comparing one site or area to another. The denominator is divided by 100 simply to prevent the ratios from being incredibly small at some sites.

Average Total Daily MME (ATDMME)

- Numerator: The sum of the TDMME
- Denominator: The number of days in the specified time period

Percentage of Patients with Total Daily MME \geq 50 (TDMME \geq 50 Patients)

- Numerator: Number of unique patients whose TDMME was \geq 50 at any point during the specified time period
- Denominator: Total number of patients taking opioids during the specified time period

Percentage of Patients with Total Daily MME \geq 90 (TDMME \geq 90 Patients)

- Numerator: Number of unique patients whose TDMME was \geq 90 at any point during the specified time period
- Denominator: Total number of patients taking opioids during the specified time period
- Explanation: The percentage of patients prescribed TDMME exceeding 90 MME for a prescribed time range

Percentage of Patients Co-Prescribed Benzodiazepines (CoBZD Patients)

- Numerator: Unique patients receiving opioids during a specified time period who also received a benzodiazepine
- Denominator: Total number of unique patients taking opioids during the specified time period
- Explanation: The percentage of patients taking opioids during a specified time period who also received a benzodiazepine during the same period. The benzodiazepine and opioid day's supply must overlap.

Percentage of Patients Receiving ≥ 50 Total Daily MMEs Co-Prescribed Benzodiazepines (% CoBZD Patients TDMME ≥ 50)

- Numerator: Number of unique patients whose TDMME was ≥ 50 AND who have a co-prescribed benzodiazepine at any point during the specified time period
- Denominator: Total number of unique patients taking opioids during the specified time period
- Explanation: The percentage of patients prescribed a TDMME ≥ 50 MME during a specified time period who also received a benzodiazepine during the same period. The benzodiazepine and opioid day's supply must overlap. Co-prescribed benzodiazepine and opioid increases opioid overdose risk.

Number of Opioid Patients (# Opioid Patients)

Explanation: Total number of unique patients who received any opioid during the time period

Number of Patients Receiving Chronic Opioid Therapy (# COT Patients)

- Explanation: Total number of unique patients who received 60 days of opioids in the previous 91 days
- (The CDC defines COT as 60 days of therapy in the last quarter [i.e., 91 days].) The left-most point of this chart may not match up with the left-most points on other charts. (More than 60 days of data are required before the first point can be generated.)

Number of Chronic Opioid Therapy Patients Co-Prescribed Naloxone (# CoNAL COT Patients)

Explanation: The number of COT patients within the specified time period who also received naloxone within the prior 3 years

Percentage of Chronic Opioid Therapy Patients Co-Prescribed Naloxone (% CoNAL COT Patients)

- Numerator: Unique COT patients within a specified time period who also received naloxone
- Denominator: Total number of unique COT patients within the specified time period
- Explanation: The number of COT patients within the specified time period who also received naloxone within the prior 3 years

Number of Buprenorphine Prescriptions (# Buprenorphine Rx)

Explanation: Number of prescriptions for any buprenorphine containing medication dispensed to the patient

Number of Buprenorphine Prescriptions per 10,000 Total Prescriptions (# Buprenorphine Rx/10,000)

- Numerator: Total number of buprenorphine prescriptions
- Denominator: Total number of buprenorphine prescriptions dispensed times 10,000, divided by total (all) scripts dispensed
- Explanation: The addition of a denominator creates a ratio and normalizes the data, making the data more useful when comparing one site or area to another. The denominator is divided by 10,000 total scripts simply to prevent the ratios from being incredibly small at some sites.

Number of Buprenorphine Patients (# Buprenorphine Patients)

Explanation: Total number of unique patients who received any prescription for buprenorphine

Percentage of Buprenorphine Patients Also Receiving Naloxone (% CoNal-Buprenorphine Patients)

- Numerator: Total number of unique buprenorphine patients who also received naloxone
- Denominator: Total number of unique buprenorphine patients
- Explanation: Co-prescription of naloxone for inclusion in the numerator is defined as any prescription for naloxone that occurred within 3 years prior to or 30 days after the buprenorphine fill date. It is considered standard of care to dispense naloxone for persons with substance use disorder.

Number of Naloxone Prescriptions (# Naloxone Rx)

Explanation: Number of naloxone prescriptions dispensed

Number of Naloxone Prescriptions per 10,000 Total Prescriptions (# Naloxone Rx/10,000)

- Numerator: Total number of naloxone prescriptions dispensed
- Denominator: Total number of naloxone prescriptions dispensed times 10,000, divided by total (all) scripts dispensed
- Explanation: The addition of a denominator creates a ratio and normalizes the data, making the data more useful when comparing one site or area to another. The denominator is divided by 10,000 total scripts simply to prevent the ratios from being incredibly small at some sites.

Number of Methadone Prescriptions (# Methadone Rx)

Explanation: Total number of prescriptions for methadone

Number of Methadone Patients (# Methadone Patients)

Explanation: Total number of unique patients dispensed methadone

Parameter Logic:

“Only Show Complete Time Periods in Charts?”

- Default is “Yes.”
- When set to “Yes,” the charts will not show data for month of the current refresh data, nor the previous two months of data. For example, if data was refreshed on November 10, you would not see the data from September, October or November. Only data prior to September would be available in the charts.

“Only Show Facilities with Rx Data in Every Month?”

- Default is “Yes.”
- When set to “Yes,” the charts will not include any data from sites that are missing any month from January 2013 until two months before the most recent data refresh, not including the current month (see above for example).