

IHS Opioid Surveillance Dashboard (Phase I)

Measures

Background

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Opioid Surveillance Dashboard (Phase I) contains an initial set of measures to help providers and health systems to 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

Dashboard User Manual Page 9

- <https://www.ihs.gov/opioids/opioidresponse/techassistance/>
- <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-17-00560.pdf>
- <https://www.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2020/07/HIIN-opioid-guide-0520.pdf>

Please Note

1. While the IHS Opioid Surveillance Dashboard is dispensing data, it does not verify the medications were actually dispensed to the patient.
2. Phase I does not include buprenorphine in the opioid definition.
3. 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.

Measures

Number of Opioid Prescriptions

Number of prescriptions for any opioid-containing medication dispensed to the patient, including electronic prescriptions transmitted

- This measure is a raw count of the number of prescriptions and does not verify the medications were actually dispensed.
- This measure does not indicate the number of patients receiving an opioid prescription.
- Name of opioid prescribed, dosing and day supply can be accessed in the data module of this measure.

Total Morphine Milligram Equivalents (TMMEs) Dispensed

Sum of all morphine milligram equivalents (MMEs) dispensed

- This measure can be used to indicate changes in opioid prescribing habits over time. For example, a change in TMME over time may indicate a provider has made changes in the type of opioid prescribed, dosing and/or number of days of prescribing.
- This measure is also used in the calculation of the average daily morphine milligram equivalents (ADMMEs) and can be drilled down to the patient level and total daily MMEs per prescription. Note that this measure is different than the Total Daily Morphine Milligram Equivalents (TDMME) measure noted historically in the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) Report and Information Processor (RRIP).

Average Daily Morphine Milligram Equivalentents (ADMMEs) Dispensed

Sum of the daily MME of each prescription (TMME divided by prescription days' supply) divided by the total number of opioid prescriptions for the timeframe displayed

- This measure provides MME data that can be compared to the National and Area Small Multiples to support meaningful benchmarking across areas, sites and providers.

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

Provides the rate of opioid prescriptions dispensed compared to the total number of prescriptions dispensed

- This measure provides MME data that can be compared to the National and Area Small Multiples to support meaningful benchmarking across areas, sites and providers.

Total Morphine Milligram Equivalentents/100 Rx (TMME/100 Rx) Dispensed

Provides the sum of all MMEs dispensed by the total number of prescriptions dispensed divided by 100

- 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.
- Some state Medicaid plans use a variation of this metric.

Number of Opioid Patients (# Opioid Patients)

Total number of patients who received any opioid prescription during the timeframe

- This measure may be useful when evaluating overall changes in opioid exposure in user populations.
- This measure may also provide insights for acute pain management strategies.

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

Total number of patients who received 60 days of opioids in the previous 91 days.

- This measure provides a “covered days” approach for understanding care management trends for chronic pain patients that may benefit from pain agreements, informed consents, additional screening and assessments.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines chronic opioid therapy (COT) as 60 days of therapy in the last quarter (i.e., 91 days).
- This measure is only calculated back to 2018.