



Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD)

HEDIS® Measurement Year 2024

Measure description: The percentage of opioid use disorder (OUD) pharmacotherapy events that lasted at least 180 days among members 16 years of age and older with a diagnosis of OUD and a new OUD pharmacotherapy event.

Use of and adherence to appropriate evidence-based treatment for OUD has been shown to improve outcomes for patients.

The benefits of pharmacotherapy for OUD have been shown to reduce substance use, overdose, mortality, crime, risk of infectious disease, and improve patient function.

Treatment medications for OUD

Description	Prescription
Antagonist	Naltrexone
Partial Antagonist	Buprenorphine
Partial Antagonist	Buprenorphine/naloxone

Methadone for OUD administered or dispensed by federally certified opioid treatment programs is billed on a medical claim.

A pharmacy claim for methadone would be indicative of treatment for pain rather than OUD.

Strategies for improvement

- If you are providing OUD pharmacotherapy treatment, we encourage you to talk about medications with our members, such as:
 - How long you expect them to be on the medication based on their OUD severity and lifetime recurrence
 - Possible medication side effects and how to manage them
 - Proper use of naloxone in the event of emergency treatment of an opioid overdose
 - Potential interactions with other controlled substances
 - Why it's important to continue medication and the dangers of discontinuing suddenly
 - Factors that can support recovery in addition to medication, counseling or therapy, and peer support
- Consider providing our members written instructions to support these educational messages. Also, talk with our members about the importance of therapeutic engagement and coordination of care with other contracted health care providers.