

Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing

Measure Description: Proportion of inpatient hospitalizations for patients 18 years of age and older prescribed, or continued on, two or more opioids or an opioid and benzodiazepine concurrently at discharge.

Description of the relationship between structures and processes and the desired outcome:

The logic model for this measure demonstrates the link between avoiding discharging patients with concurrent prescriptions for two or more opioids or an opioid and benzodiazepine and a reduced risk of adverse drug events. The measure starts when a patient is admitted to a hospital inpatient, emergency department, or observation facility. Then at discharge, clinician reviews medication history and care provided during encounter, including medications administered. In the third step, clinician confirms medical necessity of prescribing concurrent prescriptions prior to discharging patient to minimize risk of adverse drug events. The result of the clinician's actions leads to reduced risk of adverse drug events (respiratory depression, overdose, and death) from concurrent prescriptions of opioids or opioid-BZ for patient. The Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing measure has the potential to improve patient safety by encouraging clinicians to re-evaluate co-prescribing of prescriptions of opioids or opioid-benzodiazepine at discharge from the facility.

