

## Drug Abuse Risk Mitigation

In 2023, the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics estimated that 16 million (about 6%) adolescent and adult Americans misuse prescription drugs every year with about 2 million of those misusing being addicted to these prescriptions. Patients misusing opioids make up 57.1% of this population with those misusing sedatives-hypnotics at 36.2%, those misusing stimulants at 30.1%, and those misusing benzodiazepines at 29.4%. It is estimated that the majority of these patients are not misusing prescription drugs to induce a euphoric state or “high” but instead are seeking enhanced symptomatic relief. However, the misuse and overdose of prescription drugs can still significantly increase the risk of morbidity and mortality for these patients.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reported in 2021 for the adolescent and adult population in America that 0.5% had a stimulant use disorder, 0.8% had a sedative-hypnotic use disorder, and 1.8% had a prescription opioid use disorder. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reported in 2021 that for this same population 16,709 people died from a prescription opioid overdose and 12,499 people died from a benzodiazepine overdose.

Patients with a history of substance use disorder, whether from illegal substances or prescribed medications, may have a significantly increased risk in taking any medication therapies with misuse potential. This increased risk could stem from a perceived likelihood of continuing drug misuse or from dangerous drug combinations. Therefore, the purpose of this intervention is to identify patients at increased risk of medication toxicities due to current therapies with misuse potential and a recent history of substance use disorder.

## Intervention Summary

The following table shows a summary of the proposed intervention topics and the number of potential patients that may be targeted by each intervention. The number of potential patients is based on the most recent ICER. The actual number of targeted patients for each intervention will be based on the ICER for the month the intervention is performed.

Outcomes assessment will be completed 180 days after the intervention is performed.

Proposed Intervention Topic	MCO	FFS – Adult	FFS – Pediatric (Age <18 years)
1. All patients with a claim for one of the selected drugs for ≥30 days in the last 90 days AND a diagnosis of substance use disorder, substance dependence, and/or drug overdose in the last 90 days	2845	10	1  Age 0-11 years: 0 Age 12-18 years: 1

## Criteria Recommendations

**Alert Message:** Due to its potential for misuse, addiction, physical dependence, and withdrawal reactions, [Selected Drug] should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance dependence or substance use disorders.

**Population:**

**Inclusion:** All patients with a claim for one of the selected drugs for ≥30 days in the last 90 days AND a diagnosis of

substance use disorder, substance dependence, and/or drug overdose in the last 90 days. (Note: The drugs selected for review are listed below.)

- Benzodiazepines
- Opioids
- Stimulants
- Sedative-hypnotics
- Barbiturates
- Quetiapine
- Meprobamate

**Exclusion:** The following drugs are excluded from review.

- Clobazam
- Buprenorphine products
- Ramelteon

MCO	FFS – Adult	FFS – Pediatric (Age <18 years)
2845	10	1

**References:**

- 1.) Prescription drug abuse statistics. National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics. (2024, May 2). <https://drugabusestatistics.org/prescription-drug-abuse-statistics/>
- 2.) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2022). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP22-07-01-005, NSDUH Series H-57). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2021-nsduh-annual-national-report>
- 3.) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2023, December 14). What is the scope of Prescription Drug Misuse in the United States?. National Institutes of Health. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/what-scope-prescription-drug-misuse>
- 4.) Pharmacist's Letter, Seroquel (Quetiapine) Abuse, October 2007, ISSN #0889-0371, Detail Document#: 231008.
- 5.) Pierre JM, Shnyder I, Wirshing DA, et al., Intranasal Quetiapine Abuse, Am J Psychiatry. September 2004, 161(9):1718.
- 6.) Reeves RR, Brister JC. Additional Evidence of the Abuse of Potential of Quetiapine, South Med J 2007;100(8):834-6.