

2021 MCAS MEASURE: CONCURRENT USE OF OPIOIDS AND BENZODIAZEPINES (COB)

Measure Steward: Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)

Gold Coast Health Plan's (GCHP) goal is to help its providers gain compliance with their annual Managed Care Accountability Set (MCAS) scores by providing guidance and resources. This tip sheet will provide the key components to the MCAS measure, *"Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB)."*

Measure Description: *Measures the percentage of beneficiaries ages 18 and older with concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines.*

Concurrent Use:

- Two or more prescription claims for any benzodiazepine with different dates of service.
- Concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines for 30 or more cumulative days.

Data Collection Method: Administrative¹

List of Opioid and Benzodiazepine Medications

- Click [here](#) for the list of NDC codes used to identify opioids and benzodiazepines.

Opioids ^{1,2}	Benzodiazepines ²
Buprenorphine ³	Alprazolam
Butorphanol	Chlordiazepoxide
Codeine	Clobazam
Dihydrocodeine	Clonazepam
Fentanyl	Clorazepate
Hydrocodone	Diazepam
Hydromorphone	Estazolam
Levorphanol	Flurazepam
Meperidine	Lorazepam
Methadone	Midazolam
Morphine	Oxazepam
Opium	Quazepam
Oxycodone	Temazepam
Oxymorphone	Traizolam
Pentazocine	
Tapentadol	
Tramadol	

¹ Excludes injectable formulations.

² Includes prescription opioid cough medications.

³ Excludes single-agent and combination buprenorphine products used to treat opioid use disorder (i.e. buprenorphine sublingual tables, Probuphine® Implant kit subcutaneous implant, and all buprenorphine / naloxone combination products).

COB Clinical Code Sets

For billing, reimbursement and reporting of services completed, submit claims in a timely manner with the appropriate medical codes for all clinical conditions evaluated and services completed.

Exclusionary Criteria

Members with a cancer diagnosis, or a sickle cell disease diagnosis, or in hospice anytime during the measurement year are excluded from the COB measure. Click [here](#) for a list of exclusionary ICD-10-CM diagnoses.



Best Practices:

- ▶ Create a checklist of recommended actions when considering long-term opioid therapy.
- ▶ Establish goals for pain and function, discuss risks and benefits, and use strategies to mitigate any risk.
- ▶ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a set of guidelines to prescribing opioids for chronic pain. Visit the CDC's [website](#) or [click here](#) to view this resource.
- ▶ Refer to Turn the Tide RX's [Pocket Card for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#), an adaptation for quick reference of the CDC prescribing guidelines.

¹ Measures reported using the *administrative* data collection method report on the entire eligible population and use only administrative data sources (e.g. claims, encounter, lab, immunization registries) to evaluate if services were performed.