

# Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD)

## New for 2026

- No applicable changes for this measure



**Yes!**

Supplemental data accepted for required exclusions only

## Definition

Percentage of new opioid use disorder pharmacotherapy events that lasted at least 180 days among members 16 years of age and older with a diagnosis of opioid use disorder and a new opioid use disorder pharmacotherapy event.

Plans(s) affected	Quality program(s) affected	Collection and reporting method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> <li>• Medicare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCQA Health Plan Ratings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Administrative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claim/encounter</li> <li>• Pharmacy data</li> </ul>

## Medications

To be included in this measure, a member must have been dispensed one of the following Opioid medications:

Drug category	Medications
Antagonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naltrexone (oral or injectable)</li> </ul>
Partial agonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buprenorphine (sublingual tablet, injection, implant)</li> </ul>
Partial agonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buprenorphine/naloxone (sublingual tablet, buccal film, sublingual film)</li> </ul>

**Methadone is not included on the Medication lists for this measure because a pharmacy claim for methadone indicates treatment for pain and not opioid use disorder.**

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# Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD) (cont.)

## Required exclusion(s)

Exclusion	Time frame
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members in hospice or using hospice services</li> <li>Members who died</li> </ul>	Any time during the measurement year

## Tips and best practices to help close this care opportunity

- This measure focuses on treatment for members with opioid use disorder
- Evidence suggests that people who see multiple prescribers and use multiple pharmacies are at higher risk of overdose
- UnitedHealthcare is committed to working with care providers to help:
  - Prevent** opioid misuse and addiction
  - Treat** those who are addicted
  - Support** long-term recovery

For more information about our programs to help prevent opioid overuse, please visit [UHCprovider.com](http://UHCprovider.com) > Menu > Resource Library > Drug Lists and Pharmacy > Opioid Programs and Resources.

- Information to help you stay informed about the latest opioid research and guidelines is also available at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov), [hhs.gov](http://hhs.gov) or your state's public health department website. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

### - Prevention

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain available at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) > CDC A - Z

- INDEX > D > Drug Overdose (OD) > Healthcare Providers > CDC's opioid prescribing guideline for chronic pain
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Prevent Opioid Abuse and Addiction available at [hhs.gov/opioids](http://hhs.gov/opioids) > Prevention
- Treatment**
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder (MOUD) available at [samhsa.gov](http://samhsa.gov) > Programs & Campaigns > Medication-Assisted Treatment
  - National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Effective Treatments for Opioid Addiction available at [drugabuse.gov](http://drugabuse.gov) > Drugs of Abuse > Opioids > Effective Treatments for Opioid Addiction
  - HHS Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder available at [hhs.gov/opioids](http://hhs.gov/opioids) > Treatment
    - American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Educational Resources available at: [asam.org](http://asam.org) > Education > Educational Resources

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## - Recovery

- o In-network MOUD care provider search for UnitedHealthcare plan members available at [provider.liveandworkwell.com](https://provider.liveandworkwell.com)

- To start a search, enter ZIP code > Select an Area of Expertise > Substance Use Disorder > Search

## - Harm reduction

- o Harm Reduction Coalition Prescribe Naloxone! available at [harmreduction.org](https://harmreduction.org) > Issues > Overdose Prevention > Prescribe Naloxone! Recent Resources

- o SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Preventive Toolkit available at [samhsa.gov](https://samhsa.gov) > Publications > Substances > Opioids or Opiates > Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit (SMA16-4742)

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