



## Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD)

### POD Measure Description<sup>1</sup>

Assesses the percentage of opioid use disorder (OUD) pharmacotherapy treatment events among members age 16 and older that continue for at least 180 days (6 months).

### Why is POD Important?<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, over 2.7 million U.S. residents 12 years of age and older had an OUD. The same year, more than 93,300 deaths were due to drug overdose; of those, 74% involved an opioid.

Pharmacotherapy has been identified as a critical part of treatment for individuals with OUD. A gap in treatment currently exists: Estimates suggest that less than 40% of U.S. residents over 12 with an OUD diagnosis receive pharmacotherapy. Encouraging pharmacotherapy is critical because individuals with OUD who engage in treatment with pharmacotherapy are less likely to exhibit withdrawal or craving symptoms and use illicit opioids, and are more likely to remain in treatment and engage in mental health therapy.

### Best Practices

- ✓ Provide empathic listening and nonjudgmental discussions to engage the patient and caregivers in decision making and a relapse prevention plan.
- ✓ Inform OUD patients about the risks and benefits of pharmacotherapy, treatment without medication, and no treatment.
- ✓ Ensure patients are not using benzodiazepines and opioids concurrently.
- ✓ Consider factors that can support recovery in addition to medication, such as counseling, therapy, and peer support.
- ✓ Encourage coordination of care and communication between the physical and behavioral health providers, including transitions in care.

All summaries of the measure contained herein are reproduced with permission from HEDIS Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality-report/measures-list/>

<sup>2</sup> Source: HEDIS MY 2025 Tech Specs Manual Vol. 2

Numerator Compliance<sup>2</sup>

New OUD pharmacotherapy events with OUD pharmacotherapy for 180 or more days without a gap in treatment of 8 or more consecutive days.

Refer to the next page for the list of medications.

Data Collection Method<sup>2</sup>

Administrative (Claims)



Trillium Percentages/NCQA National Averages<sup>1</sup>

POD	Measurement Year	Trillium	NCQA National Average
Total	2023	-	24.95
	2022	-	-

All summaries of the measure contained herein are reproduced with permission from HEDIS Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality-report/measures-list/>

<sup>2</sup> Source: HEDIS MY 2025 Tech Specs Manual Vol. 2

POD Numerator Medications<sup>2</sup>

Description	Prescription	
Agonist	Methadone (oral)	
Antagonist	Naltrexone (oral) Naltrexone (injectable)	
Partial agonist	Buprenorphine (sublingual tablet) Buprenorphine (injection) Buprenorphine (implant)	Buprenorphine/ naloxone (sublingual tablet, buccal film, sublingual film)

All summaries of the measure contained herein are reproduced with permission from HEDIS Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality-report/measures-list/>

<sup>2</sup> Source: HEDIS MY 2025 Tech Specs Manual Vol. 2