Identifying members with high risk opioid utilization using commercial health insurance claims

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Background
• Opioid-related rates of opioid mortality and morbidity have prompted initiatives to identify members at high risk of adverse events in pharmacy claims.
• More than 12 million people reported using prescription painkillers at least once per month in 2010.
• Opioids are involved in most drug-related deaths and are the cause of prescription drug overdose deaths.
• Nearly three out of four prescription drug overdoses are caused by prescription opioids — also called prescription painkillers.

Objective & Purpose
• In 2012, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services improved drug utilization review controls in Part D
• To evaluate high-risk opioid utilizers and their characteristics.

Methods
• Pharmacy claims data from a Southern U.S. plan with 3,656,391 continuously enrolled members for calendar year 2012 were queried during the study period.
• The study population included members with at least one opioid claim.
• The渥Осruations of members who were defined as high-risk opioid utilizers were evaluated and described.

Results
• During 2012, 372,512 (9.3%) of 3,656,391 members had 1,184,243 opioid claims with MED ≥ 45 and MED ≤ 120.
• The trend analysis of members who were defined as high-risk opioid utilizers was evaluated and described.
• The high-risk opioid utilizers were older, had a higher proportion of male members and 2,959 (1.2%) had a back pain ICD-9 code.
• An ICD-9 code for malignant neoplasm cancer was found in 4.8% (414,718) high-risk opioid utilizers and 1.6% of opioid utilizers.
• The sensitivity analysis using MED greater than or equal to 30 days yielded almost twice the number of high-risk opioid utilizers (4.8%) as compared to the original analysis (2.2%)

Limitations
• The current analysis used a previous version (2012) of the CMS list of opioids and morphine conversion factors so results may differ based on the opioid chart used.
• This analysis included only one commercial insurance plan.

Conclusions
• For this plan, almost one in four members utilized opioids in 2012 and a substantial proportion of these members utilized high opioid dosages.
• This is the first study to identify members at high risk for opioid-related events.
• Results suggest that opioid utilization among older patients is substantially higher than previously reported.

Objectives & Purpose
• To identify, characterize, and compare commercially insured members by MED ≥ 120 use in 2012.

(continued...)

References
1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: volume 1: summary of national findings. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; 2011. NSDUH/2010Results.htm#2.16
5. The current analysis used a previous version (2012) of the CMS list of opioids and morphine conversion factors so results may differ based on the opioid chart used.