

# Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines



**Simultaneous use of multiple medications can significantly increase patients' risk for adverse outcomes.** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will help reduce these risks, by implementing the Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB) measure. This measure aims to help identify patients at high risk for serious adverse effects when using these two classes of medications together.

## Quality measure

## Description

### Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB)

Percentage of patients ages 18 years or older with 30 cumulative days of overlap with opioids and benzodiazepines

### COB exclusions

Patients diagnosed with cancer, sickle cell disease, or enrolled in hospice.

### What qualifies a member for the COB measure?

Two fills of any opioids with at least 15 cumulative days' supply during the year.

### What makes a member non-compliant with the COB measure?

At least two fills of any benzodiazepine(s) with 30 days of overlap with opioids during the year.

## Drug examples

Listed below are examples of opioids and benzodiazepines. Please consider evaluating your patients' medication lists before prescribing new drugs, as well as opportunities to de-prescribe.

**Note:** This is **not** an all-inclusive list.

Opioids		Benzodiazepines	
Buprenorphine	Morphine	Alprazolam	Midazolam
Codeine	Oxycodone	Clonazepam	Oxazepam
Fentanyl	Tramadol	Diazepam	Temazepam
Hydrocodone		Lorazepam	