Aggregate Data of Outlier Part D Prescribers of Opioids and Benzodiazepines

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed a methodology for determining outlier Part D prescribers who concurrently prescribe benzodiazepines and opioid medications, consistent with section 1860D-4(c)(4)(D) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as added by section 6065 of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act) of 2018. Individuals who take benzodiazepines and opioids together are at a higher risk for adverse events and overdose. As a collaborative partner, CMS strives to provide meaningful and informative data and believes that sharing this data, along with current prescribing guidelines, will help Part D prescribers provide the best possible care to prevent and relieve pain and maximize function for patients with pain.

Based on this analysis, CMS sent annual letters to identified Part D prescribers to notify them that they were in the highest 10th percentile of Part D prescribers in their specialty and state to meet the criteria of concurrently prescribing benzodiazepines and opioid medications from 2020-2023.

To better align with prescribing standards and practices, CMS updated its approach to overseeing inappropriate prescribing patterns. Beginning in 2024, CMS updated its definition of an outlier to the highest 25th percentile of Part D prescribers in their specialty and state as opposed to the highest 10th percentile in the previous approach.

As required by Section 6065 of the SUPPORT Act, CMS is making this aggregate Part D outlier prescriber information available on the CMS website. This effort is part of our data-driven efforts to combat the nation's opioid crisis. Included below are aggregated outlier prescriber data by state for each year the analysis was conducted to date.

Link to opioid prescribing and SUPPORT Act Section 6065 methodology:

go.cms.gov/prescribing-opioids

Annual Aggregate Outlier Data by State:

*2024, 2025, and 2026 Outliers are in the highest 25th percentile of their state and specialty

State	2020 Outliers	2021 Outliers	2022 Outliers	2023 Outliers	2024 Outliers*	2025 Outliers*	2026 Outliers*
AK	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
AL	18	12	6	5	26	16	9
AR	9	7	6	6	13	10	8
AZ	8	2	1	1	3	4	2
CA	54	32	26	23	63	32	27
CO	8	5	2	2	5	4	2
CT	4	5	1	2	3	1	2
DE	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
FL	77	44	32	21	63	38	24
GA	31	14	16	10	24	23	14
HI	2	2	0	0	0	0	0

State	2020 Outliers	2021 Outliers	2022 Outliers	2023 Outliers	2024 Outliers*	2025 Outliers*	2026 Outliers*
IA	5	1	2	2	4	3	3
ID	1	2	1	0	3	0	2
IL	19	16	13	11	30	23	12
IN	15	8	14	10	30	21	15
KS	8	6	2	4	10	9	6
KY	4	9	5	7	25	15	14
LA	21	10	5	3	9	5	5
MA	5	7	6	7	8	9	5
MD	8	0	2	1	5	3	3
ME	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
MI	27	16	16	17	47	37	27
MN	2	3	2	0	4	2	0
MO	14	16	10	7	36	29	16
MS	3	2	3	1	5	4	2
MT	2	0	1	1	3	3	2
NC	25	25	15	9	35	24	15
ND	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
NE	2	3	1	0	3	3	1
NH	2	1	1	0	2	2	0
NJ	13	8	7	3	10	10	9
NM	4	2	3	1	2	1	2
NV	7	3	2	2	6	6	5
NY	31	21	10	16	20	17	14
OH	13	9	11	8	23	14	13
OK	8	6	4	3	8	4	5
OR	4	4	2	2	3	1	0
PA	26	14	16	10	31	19	6
PR	6	0	0	1	2	0	1
RI	1	2	1	7	2	1	0
SC	16	6	8	0	18	13	14
SD	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
TN	30	16	16	6	27	17	16
TX	47	35	29	22	44	33	26
UT	8	4	2	4	5	4	4
VA	13	12	4	3	14	6	4
VT	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
WA	8	6	8	4	9	5	5
WI	7	4	4	1	2	1	1
WV	4	1	2	0	7	3	2
WY	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	**628**	**406**	**322**	**247**	**696**	**476**	**344**