



# Safe Use of Opioids- Concurrent Prescribing Data Submission Guide

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## Introduction

This measure is a quality measure the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is adopting for use in the [Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project \(MBQIP\)](#) within the [Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program](#).

This resource is intended to be used by critical access hospital personnel involved in MBQIP and State Flex personnel. This guide is based on currently available information. The information provided and submissions dates are subject to change. For guidance on the Flex Program or [MBQIP measures](#) connect with you [State Flex Program](#) or the [Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance \(RQITA\) Resource Center](#) at [RQITA@telligen.com](mailto:RQITA@telligen.com).

## Measure Overview

**Measure Name:** Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing

**Measure Short Name:** Safe Use of Opioids

**CMS eCQM ID:** CMS506V6

**MBQIP Domain:** Patient Safety

**Quality Programs:** MBQIP, Promoting Interoperability, Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program

## Measure Description

**Measure Description:** Proportion of inpatient hospitalizations for patients 18 years of age and older prescribed, or continued on, two or more opioids or an opioid and benzodiazepine concurrently at discharge.

### Measure Rationale for being in MBQIP

Unintentional opioid overdose fatalities have become an epidemic and major public health concern in the United States. Concurrent prescriptions of opioids, or opioids and benzodiazepines, places patients at a greater risk of unintentional overdose due to increased risk of respiratory depression. Patients who have multiple opioid prescriptions have an increased risk for overdose, and rates of fatal overdose are ten (10) times higher in patients who are co-dispensed opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines than opioids alone. A measure that calculates the proportion of patients with two or more opioids or opioids and benzodiazepines concurrently has the potential to reduce preventable mortality and reduce costs associated with adverse events related to opioids. It also provides meaningful data for quality teams to develop and initiate interventions to improve health outcomes.

Safe Use of Opioids is a current measure of the Medicare Promoting Interoperability (PI) Program. Critical access hospitals must meet PI Program requirements on an annual basis to avoid a downward payment adjustment. One of the program requirements is submission of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQM) data from certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT).

Calendar year (CY) 2024 eCQM reporting requirements for Promoting Interoperability (PI) include data reflecting all four quarters of CY 2024 for:

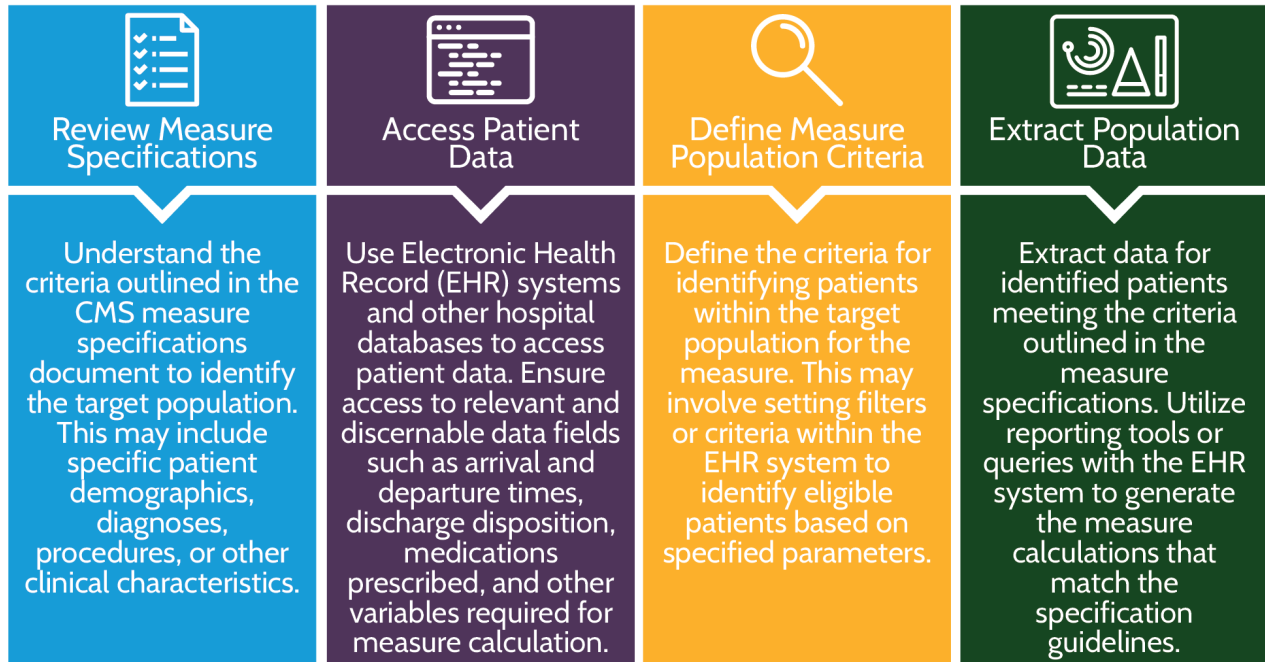
- Three self-selected measures of the [thirteen available eCQMs](#) for each quarter

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## Getting Started

Reporting data for a quality measure for the first time can be a daunting task for hospital staff. Below are actionable first steps hospital quality teams can take for reporting new measures for hospitals.



### eCQM Reporting-Specifics

New to reporting eCQMs? The following will help you get familiar with the electronic clinical quality measures for quality reporting.

<i>Review eCQM 101 – Getting Started with Electronic Clinical Quality Measures for Quality Reporting</i>	
<a href="#">Introduction (PDF)</a>	This resource provides details as to what is an eCQM, where to find eCQMs, and what details are included in an eCQM specification.
<a href="#">Resources (PDF)</a>	This resource provides resources that are helpful to successfully understand, test, and implement eCQMs.
<a href="#">Programs CMS Specifics (PDF)</a>	This resource includes where to find which eCQMs are used in CMS quality programs, where to go if you need help reporting or implementing eCQMs, and what/how to report for each program.
<a href="#">Guide for Reading eCQMs</a>	This guide assists implementers with information on how to read eCQM specifications. This may be shared with hospital information technology (IT) departments to assist with determining information that needs to be extracted from EHR to meet the measure specification.
<i>Implement the Safe Use of Opioids measure within your EHR.</i>	
<a href="#">Safe Use of Opioids Webinar</a>	Safe Use of Opioids Concurrent Prescribing webinar and <a href="#">slides, transcripts, and Q&amp;As</a> will assist with providing a great overview for the Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing measure.
<a href="#">eCQM Logic and Implementation Guidance v7.0</a>	This guide can assist your vendor or health IT department with how to implement eCQMs. This guide breaks down the specific measure details within each eCQM and how to implement the value set and data elements within your EHR to match the measure specification.

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