
Proposed Retirement of Existing Measure for HEDIS 2011: Outpatient Drug Utilization (ORX)

NCQA seeks comments on the proposed retirement of the *Outpatient Drug Utilization (ORX)* measure. The measure summarizes data on outpatient utilization of drug prescriptions.

We propose to retire all components of the measure because key stakeholder input indicates that the it is of little use to plans.

NCQA proposes the addition of generic and name-brand prescription utilization to all Relative Resource Use (RRU) measures. Refer to the RRU measure pharmacy update memo for additional details.

A measure specification showing the proposed change is provided.

NCQA thanks and acknowledges the contributions of the Efficiency Measurement Advisory Panel and the Utilization Measurement Technical Subgroup.

Outpatient Drug Utilization (ORX)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS 2011

- [Retire this measure.](#)

Description

This measure summarizes data on outpatient utilization of drug prescriptions, stratified by age, during measurement year. The following data are reported.

- Total cost of prescriptions
- Average cost of prescriptions PMPM
- Total number of prescriptions
- Average number of prescriptions PMPY

Calculations

Product lines Report the following tables for each applicable product line.

- Table ORX-1a Total Medicaid
- Table ORX-1b Medicaid/Medicare Dual-Eligibles
- Table ORX-1c Medicaid—Disabled
- Table ORX-1d Medicaid—Other Low Income
- Table ORX-2 Commercial—by Product or Combined HMO/POS
- Table ORX-3 Medicare

Age Age as of the date the prescription is dispensed.

Benefit Pharmacy.

Member months Report all member months for the measurement year for members with the benefit. Refer to *Specific Instructions for Use of Services Tables*.

Prescription One 30-day (or less) supply of pharmaceuticals.* Supplies (e.g., syringes) do not count toward this measure.

**To calculate dispensing events for prescriptions longer than 30 days, divide the days supply by 30 and round up to convert. For example, a 100-day prescription is equal to 4 dispensing events (100/30 = 3.33, rounded up to 4).*

Formulas **Total cost of prescriptions** = Discounted ingredient cost + dispensing or professional fees + administrative fees – formulary or other rebates.

The plan may be responsible for part of the total prescription cost and the member may be responsible for the remainder of the total cost. The total cost of prescriptions may be alternatively calculated as:

Total cost of prescriptions = plan cost + member cost.

Average total cost of prescriptions per member per month = [Discounted ingredient costs (before member copayments or deductibles) + dispensing or professional fees + administrative fees – formulary or other rebates]/member months for members with a pharmacy benefit.

Alternatively, average total cost of prescriptions = [plan costs + member costs]/ member months for members with a pharmacy benefit. For example, the average wholesale price for prescription “X” is \$50. The plan negotiates a 20 percent discount with the pharmacy. There is a \$5 dispensing fee and member copay is \$4. Assuming no administrative fees or other rebates or formularies, the discounted ingredient cost is \$40 (\$50 average wholesale price less the 20 percent discount). The *total cost of prescriptions* is \$45 (\$40 discounted ingredient cost + \$5 dispensing fee). While the cost to the member is \$4 and the plan cost is \$41 (for a total of \$45), the breakdown of total prescription cost between the plan and the member is not reported.

Average total number of prescriptions per member per year = [Total number of prescriptions/member months for members with a pharmacy benefit] × 12 months.

Note

- Results of this measure might be affected by differences in pharmacy benefits across health plans.
- A health plan that dispenses rebates on a lump-sum basis should average the rebates over the total number of prescriptions.

Table ORX-1/2/3: Outpatient Drug Utilization

Age	Member Months
0-9	_____
10-17	_____
18-34	_____
35-49	_____
50-64	_____
65-74	_____
75-84	_____
85+	_____
Unknown	_____
Total:	_____

Table ORX-1/2/3: Outpatient Drug Utilization (continued)

Age	Total Cost of Prescriptions	Average Cost of Prescriptions PMPM	Total Number of Prescriptions	Average Number of Prescriptions PMPY
0-9	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-17	_____	_____	_____	_____
18-34	_____	_____	_____	_____
35-49	_____	_____	_____	_____
50-64	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total:	_____	_____	_____	_____