

## What is the comparator group information in MD Snapshot-Prescribing?

To provide an additional perspective, **peer comparison data** is also included in **MD Snapshot-Prescribing**.

You were placed in the comparator group containing the specialty you provided in your most recent Renewal Information Form (RIF), which also appears on your public profile on CPSA’s website. If you are a member of a **Primary Care Network (PCN)**, you now have the option of selecting PCN as your specialty group to receive information on your prescribing practices for opioids and benzodiazepines, relative to the other physicians in your PCN. PCN comparisons offer reflection on your prescribing relative to colleagues with the most similar practice environment (acknowledging that there will still be some variations in practice, e.g., part-time vs. full-time practice, patient complexities, etc.).

### Step-by-step guide: creating comparator groups

1. The prescribing patterns used were OME/day/patient for opioids and DDDs/patient for BDZ/Z.
2. Distributions (visualized with box plots) were created for each specialty, based on the applicable prescribing patterns.
3. Specialties with similar distributions and similar clinical practice were clustered together and further examined.
4. If one specialty was clinically similar but their prescribing pattern was drastically different from the rest of the group, it was either moved to a different group or formed into a group of its own if it contained more than fifty physicians (e.g. opioid orthopedic surgery).
5. The number of prescribing physicians and distributions were checked for consistency using data from three previous quarters.
6. Specialties with very few physicians or where a peer group comparison was not otherwise meaningful (e.g. pathology) were excluded.
7. Physicians in each Primary Care Network were grouped together.

### Breakdown of comparator groups by prescribing domain

Opioids		Benzodiazepines and Z-drugs(BDZ/Z)	
A.	Family Medicine, Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise), General Practice	A.	Family Medicine, Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly), Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine) and General Practice
B.	Cardiology, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Gastroenterology, General Internal Medicine, Hematology, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Physical Medicine & Rehab, Respiriology and Rheumatology	B.	Cardiology, Clinical Immunology & Allergy, Dermatology, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Gastroenterology, General Internal Medicine, Hematology, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Respiriology and Rheumatology
C.	Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Head and Neck Surgery, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics &		

Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, Urology and Vascular Surgery	C. Cardiac Surgery, Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery, Colorectal surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery and Urology
D. Orthopedic Surgery	D. Psychiatry
E. Psychiatry	E. Anesthesiology and Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)
F. Anesthesiology and Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	F. Emergency Medicine and Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)
G. Emergency Medicine and Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	G. Primary Care Networks
H. Primary Care Networks	

### Excluded Specialties

Anatomical Pathology; Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Community Medicine; Critical Care Medicine; Diagnostic Radiology; Family Medicine (Palliative Care); Forensic Psychiatry; General Surgical Oncology; Geriatric Medicine; Geriatric Psychiatry; Gynecologic Oncology; Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility; Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Medical Biochemistry; Medical Genetics; Medical Microbiology; Medical Oncology; Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine; Neuropathology; Nuclear Medicine; Occupational Medicine; Ophthalmology; Pain Medicine; Palliative Medicine; Pathology, General; Pediatric Cardiology; Pediatric Emergency Medicine; Pediatric Gastroenterology; Pediatric Hematology & Oncology; Pediatric Neurology; Pediatric Respiriology; Pediatric Surgery; Pediatric Urology; Pediatrics; Public Health and Preventive Medicine; Radiation Oncology; Sport and Exercise Medicine Vascular Surgery\*; Thoracic Surgery\*; Cardiac Surgery†; Clinical Immunology & Allergy†; Colorectal Surgery†; Dermatology†; Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)†; Infectious diseases†

(\*)Excluded from BDZ/Z drug comparator groups only; (†) Excluded from Opioids comparator groups only