

Glossary of Terms

Analytic classes:

Antibiotics

Dispenses for antibiotic products, excluding topical formulations.

Opioids

Dispenses for medications where the main ingredient is an opioid or certain non-opioid TPP drugs (e.g., butalbital and ketamine). Single entity and combination codeine and tramadol products are also included (e.g., Atasol 15, tramadol/acetaminophen). Over-the-counter (non-prescription) codeine products are captured as well (e.g., acetaminophen/caffeine/codeine 8 mg).

Benzodiazepines (BDZ) and Z-drugs (BDZ/Z)

Dispenses for drugs where the primary ingredient is a benzodiazepine or a Z-drug (i.e., eszopiclone, zopiclone, zaleplon or zolpidem).

Comparator Groups:

Specialty or subspecialty groups with similar clinical practices, prescribing patterns and distribution (e.g., based on average prescribed OME/day/patient for opioids, DDD/patient for BDZ/Z-drugs or DDD/day for antibiotics) were clustered together to form comparator groups. Primary Care Networks can also be selected as a comparator group. Learn more about [comparator groups](#).

Defined Daily Dose (DDD):

Defined Daily Dose (DDD) values are defined by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and represent the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug used for its main indication (in adults). For instance, 1 DDD for

zopiclone (Imovane[®]) is 7.5mg and for diazepam (Valium[®]), this value is 10mg. Multiples of DDDs were used to standardize dose measurements across drugs in the benzodiazepine and antibiotic classes. For a full list, see [Oral Morphine Equivalents \(OME\), Benzodiazepine/Z-drug Defined Daily Doses \(DDD\) and Antibiotic DDD](#).

Long-acting opioids:

Opioids with a long serum half-life or a controlled or extended-release drug delivery mechanism.

Oral Morphine Equivalents (OME):

OME values were used to standardize dose measurements across all ingredients and routes for drugs within the opioid analytical class. See [Oral Morphine Equivalents \(OME\) & Defined Daily Doses \(DDD\)](#) in the *Supporting Materials*.

Opioid New Start Patients (formerly opioid naïve):

Patients with no available history of opioid dispenses in the past 180 days are considered opioid New Starts for the MD Snapshot-Prescribing. Patients receiving an opioid agonist treatment drug (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine/naloxone) are not considered opioid new starts.

Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN):

Part of Netcare (Alberta's Electronic Health Record), [PIN](#) contains community-based dispenses for a patients' medications. Hospital pharmacy dispenses for in-patients are NOT included. Data is entered into PIN at the community pharmacy level.

TPP Drugs:

TPP Drugs refers to drugs monitored by the [Tracked Prescription Program \(TPP\) Alberta](#). This includes Type 1 drugs that require use of a secure TPP Alberta prescription form and Type 2 drugs that do not.