

Indicator: Chronic Opioid Use

Data Source	Definition	Numerator	Denominator	Comments	Covariates
PBS	Proportion of residents considered chronic opioid users.	Number of permanent residents that are chronic opioid users (Table 1). Chronic opioid use is defined as receiving any number of opioid medications for at least 90 days continuously, or for 120 non-consecutive days (1). The number of days of medication use is determined based on the number of units dispensed and estimated dose per day. No gap days between one opioid medication dispensing and another were allowed when determining consecutive use of opioids.	Number of permanent residents who are not receiving pharmacological cancer treatment or are not receiving palliative care.	Cancer exclusion: 6 months prior to reporting period history of antineoplastic agents (Table 2). Palliative care exclusion is from entry into residential aged care assessment (Table.2).	Age, sex, number of health conditions (excluding pain).

PBS: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Table 1. Opioids Medications, Descriptions, ATC Codes, PBS Codes and Estimated Usual Dose.

Description	ATC	PBS items	Usual dose per day ¹
Morphine	N02AA01	08491X, 08492Y, 08493B	1
		01653B, 01654C, 01655D, 01656E, 02839K, 02840L, 02841M, 05392T, 05393W, 05394X, 05395Y, 08035X, 08349K, 08453X, 08489T, 08494C, 08669G, 08670H	2
		04349X, 05161P, 05162Q, 05164T, 05165W, 05391R	
		08146R, 08305D, 08306E, 08490W	2 sachets
		01646P	4
		02122Q, 02123R, 02124T, 09014K, 09015L, 09016M, 09017N	30 mg
Hydromorphone	N02AA03	09299K, 09406C, 09407D, 09408E, 09409F 03357Q	1

		05132D ² , 08424J, 11467M	12mL
		08541M,08542N, 08543P, 12047C, 12497R	6
Oxycodone	N02AA05	08385H, 08386J, 08387K, 08388L, 09399Q, 09400R, 05227D, 05247E, 05248F, 05249G, 05250H, 08681X	2
		05191F, 05195K, 08464L, 08501K, 08502L, 02481N, 02622B, 05197M, 05198N, 12031F, 12023T	4
		05191F ² , 08644Y, 05190E	20 mL
Oxycodone + Naloxone	N02AA55	08000C, 08934F, 08935G, 08936H, 10757E, 10758F, 10776E, 11102H, 11111T	2
Fentanyl ³	N02AB03	05265D, 05277R, 05278T, 05279W, 05280X, 05437E, 05438F, 05439G, 05440H, 05441J, 08878G, 08891Y, 08892B, 08893C, 08894D, 08337T, 08338W, 08339X, 08340Y	1 patch per 3 days
Methadone	N02AC52	01609Q	3
Methadone liquid	N02AC52	05399E, 05400F	6 mL
Buprenorphine	N02AE01	08865N, 08866P, 08866P, 08867Q, 10746N, 10755C, 10756D, 10770W, 10948F, 10949G, 10953L, 10957Q, 10959T, 10964C, 10970J, 08867Q	1 patch per 7 days
Codeine, combinations with paracetamol	N02AJ06	01215Y, 03316M, 04170L, 04171M, 04275B, 04286N, 08785J, 10186D, 12022R	8
Tramadol	N02AX02	02527B, 08523N, 08524P, 08525Q, 03338Q, 05234L, 05235M, 05236N	2
		05001F, 091993, 09200F, 09201G	1
		05232J, 08455B, 08611F, 12008B	4
		08582Q, 05231H	4 injection
		08843K	160 drops = 400mg
Tapentadol	N02AX06	10091D, 10092E, 10094G, 10096J, 10100N	2
Codeine	N02AA	05063L, 01214X, 12065B	4

¹Quantity per day in tablets unless otherwise stated.

²Removed from the PBS in 2016.

³Fentanyl lozenges (PBS items 10684H, 10697B, 10698C, 10729Q, 10737D) were excluded as clinical indication on the PBS is for cancer treatment and palliative care only.

PBS: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. **ATC:** Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System.

Table 2. Cancer Treatment and Palliative Care, Descriptions, ATC Codes, ACFI Code.

Description	Code
Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents ¹	L01*
Palliative care (ACFI question 12, R14): “The person needs a palliative care program involving end of life care where ongoing care will involve very intensive clinical nursing and/or complex pain management in the residential care setting.”	“Y”

¹Determined using 6 months of PBS prescription data prior to the study period. **ATC**: Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System. **ACFI**: Aged Care Funding Instrument.

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References

1. Von Korff M, Saunders K, Thomas Ray G, Boudreau D, Campbell C, Merrill J, et al. De facto long-term opioid therapy for noncancer pain. *Clin J Pain*. 2008;24(6):521-7.