Indicator: High Sedative Load

Data Source	Definition	Numerator	Denominator	Comments	Covariates
PBS	Proportion of home care recipients who experienced a high sedative load (SL≥3)	Number of home care recipients who experienced high sedative load (SL≥3) medication use within a 91-day period in the reporting period of 1 year (*see details on calculation of sedative load below*). Sedative load is calculated by summing the sedative rating of each medication dispensed during the same period (Table 1).	Number of home care recipients. Exclude history of schizophrenia or Huntington's disease (Table 2) or receiving pharmacological cancer treatment (Table 3).	The published literature was searched to identify medications that contribute to high sedative load (1-3).	Age, sex, number of health conditions.
PBS	Proportion of home care recipients with dementia who experienced a high sedative load (SL≥3).	Number of home care recipients with dementia who experienced high sedative load (SL≥3) medication use within a 91-day period (*see details on calculation of sedative load below)* at least once in the reporting period of 1 year. Sedative load is calculated by summing the sedative rating of each medication dispensed during the same period (Table 1).	Number of home care recipients with dementia. Exclude history of schizophrenia or Huntington's disease (Table 2) or receiving cancer pharmacological treatment (Table 3).	The published literature was searched to identify medications that contribute to high sedative load (1-3).	Age, sex, number of health conditions other than dementia.

PBS: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. **SL:** Sedative Load.

Calculation of sedative load

Sedative load is calculated by summing the sedative rating of each different medication dispensed within the 91-day period (Table 1). Each drug is only counted once towards sedative load within the 91-day period regardless of the number of scripts or quantity dispensed.

Medicines dispensed after exit from facility are not included in the calculation, however medicines dispensed whilst the person is on leave are included if there is a PBS script.

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*91-day periods for sedative load defined as follows:
START = max (entry date +100 days, 1st),

END = min (date of death, date of exit from facility, 'last day of year')

Period 1: START to (START + 90) or END
Period 2: (START + 91) to (START +181) or END
Period 3: (START +182) to (START + 272) or END
Period 4: (START +273) to (START + 363) or END

Table 1. Medications with Sedative Properties, Description, ATC Codes, and Sedative Rating.

Description	Code	Sedative Rating[1]
Conventional antipsychotics including butrophenones and prochlorperazine	N05AA*, N05AB*, N05AC*, N05AD*, N05AF*	2
Antidepressants; tricyclic agents, non-selective monoamine reuptake inhibitors, antidepressant of second generation, combinations	N06AA*, N06CA01, N06AF*	2
Second-generation antidepressants (mianserin)	N06AX03	2
Anxiolytics	N05B*	2
Hypnotics and sedatives	N05C* (excluding N05CM*)	2
Other (lithium)	N05AN*	2
Antispasmodics with psychoepileptics	A03C*	1
Other alimentary (metoclopramide, scopolamine and in combinations)	A03FA01, A04AD01, A04AD51, N05CM05	1
Indometacin	M01AB51, M01AB01	1
Centrally acting muscle relaxants including psychotropics (baclofen, tizanidine, orphenadrine and orphenadrine combinations)	M03BX01, M03BX02, M03BC01, M03BC51	1
Opioids	N02A*	1
Antiepileptics	N03*	1
Antiparkinsonian drugs anticholinergic agents	N04A*	1
Atypical antipsychotics	N05AE*, N05AH*, N05AL*, N05AX*	1
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors	N06AB*, N06CA03	1
Other antidepressants of second generation	N06AX* (excluding N06AX03), N06AG02	1
Dopamine agonists	N04BC* (excluding N04BC01)	1
Migraine preparations	N02C*	1
Old antihistamines and antiemetics or drugs for dizziness, including psychotropics	R06AA*, R06AB*, R06AD*, R06AE*	1
Xanthines	R03DA*, R03DB*	1
Antitussives with sedating components (cough suppressants excluding combinations with expectorants, cough suppressants and expectorants, combinations, bromhexine)	R05DA*, R05F*, R05CB02	1

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Anticholinergic drops for eyes	S01FA* (excluding S01FA06 and S01FA56)	1

[1]Sedative rating 2= primary sedatives. Sedative rating 1= medications with sedation as prominent side-effect or preparations with a sedating component.
ATC: Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System. **WHO:** World Health Organisation. **PBS:** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
Note: For medications that appear on PBS as a 5-digit ATC indication, the WHO ATC code has been used to classify the sedative load.

Table 2. Health Conditions, ACAP MDS v2.0/NSAF Descriptions and Codes.

Description	Code[1]
Dementia in Huntington's disease	0523
Huntington's disease	0602
Schizophrenia	0551

[1]Diagnosis ascertained from ACAP assessment prior to home care episode.
ACAP: Aged Care Eligibility Assessment Program. **NSAF:** National Screening and Assessment Form. **MDS v2.0:** Minimum Dataset Version 2.0.

Table 3. Pharmacological Cancer Treatment Descriptions and ATC Codes

Description	Code
Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents[1]	L01*

[1]Determined using 6 months of PBS prescription data prior to home care episode (Rx-Risk-V).
ATC: Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System.

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