

2019 DRUG TRENDS

EVALUATING OPIOIDS

Opioids continue to represent a decreasing proportion of overall scripts and costs with favorable trends seen in important markers such as morphine equivalent dose (MED), duration of use, and access to guideline-supported measures including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and overdose rescue medication (naloxone).



OPIOID PRESCRIPTION UTILIZATION AND COST TRENDS*

Opioid script volume
18.8%



Down from 21.0% in 2018

Opioid cost
16.7%



Down from 19.3% in 2018

While opioids continue to decline as a percentage of total script volume and costs, it remains essential to promote evidence-based risk management strategies



*The inclusion of out-of-network specialty HCPCS in the total script count and costs has adjusted the percentage of opioids previously reported in Drug Trends Part 2

25% of injured workers use opioids



The number of injured workers using opioids has continued to decline for 6 consecutive years (down 3.2% pts. in 2019)



Scripts
per claim
down
10.3%



Cost
per script
down
1.1%



Cost
per claim
down
11.3%



AGGREGATE OPIOID TRENDS

Opioid script utilization has fallen at least 10% each year for the last 5 years

MORPHINE EQUIVALENT DOSE (MED)



Average MED per prescription
down **7.0%**



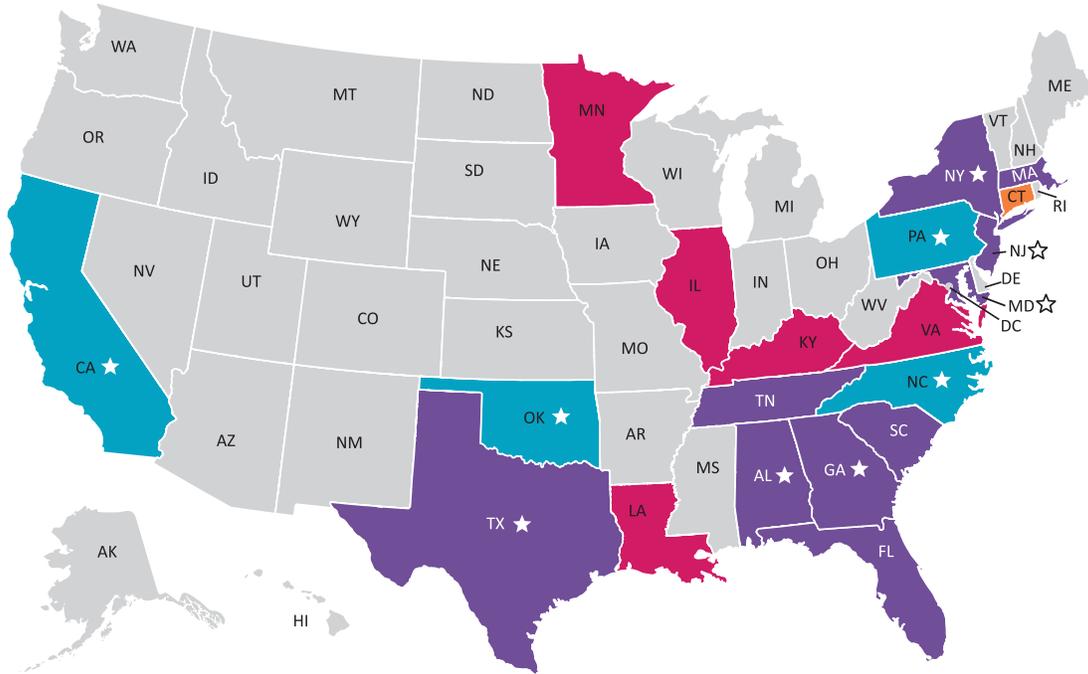
Opioid claims with long-term, high MED* declined **13.7%**

From 7.0% to 6.0% in 2019

First Script has continuously reduced MED over the last 9 years, with a 26.8% decrease in average daily MED per script over the last 5 years (from 2014-2019)

*Receiving consistent daily MED of at least 90 milligrams for 90 days or more

High MED* prescriptions have decreased for top 20 states



HIGH MED & TOP OPIOID STATES

Percentage decrease, 2019

- 20%–25%
- 10%–20%
- 5%–10%
- <5%

☆ >10% for 2 consecutive years

3 of the states with the largest decrease implemented jurisdictional rules related to opioids in 2018

OK & NC applied opioid prescribing limits mid- to late 2018
 CA rolled out a state formulary in January 2018

*Scripts with an average daily MED of at least 90 milligrams

Overall opioid scripts with high MED*

↓ 12.9% decline from 2018
 ↓ 33.5% drop since 2014

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) AND NALOXONE

There were fewer opioid claims using MAT in 2019; however, of those claims, MAT scripts increased 14.3%

Buprenorphine and methadone trends*



Scripts increased 1.0%



Costs increased 1.7%



*As a percentage of opioids scripts/cost

Naloxone trend**
 4.2% of opioid claims with MED > 50 received naloxone, more than doubling the number from 2018 (1.8%)



**Opioid overdose reversal agent

Methodology

Aggregate trends were based upon clients where both in-network (retail/mail-order and extended networks) and out-of-network bill review prescriptions were available for analysis. Including this client base allows for the most accurate representation of the overall trend experience.

Morphine equivalent dosing (MED) statistics were based entirely on retail and mail-order transactions through First Script where consistent day supply values were available.

About First Script

First Script is the Pharmacy Benefit and Drug Utilization Management Program offered as part of the Coventry suite of products. The role of a work comp PBM has evolved in response to new dispensing practices, medications, regulations, and overall health care reform. This shift has moved from management of price alone to a greater focus on utilization controls and an increasing demand for better outcomes and improvements in total cost. First Script considers pharmacy transactions from all available dispensing and billing sources through comprehensive data integration that allows for the application of price and utilization pharmacy management tools. Our Clinical Intervention Model impacts overall cost and outcomes through program integration and collaboration with providers.

About Coventry

Coventry offers workers' compensation, auto, and disability care-management and cost-containment solutions for employers, insurance carriers, and third-party administrators. With roots in both clinical and network services, Coventry leverages more than 35 years of industry experience, knowledge, and data analytics. Our mission is to return people to work, to play, and to life. And our care-management and cost-containment solutions do just that. Our networks, clinical solutions, specialty programs, and business tools will help you focus on total outcomes.

Acronyms

HCPCS: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System

MED: Morphine Equivalent Dose

MAT: Medication-Assisted Treatment

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