

People dispensed oxycodone one or more times in a year

Technical information	
Indicator name (short)	People dispensed oxycodone, rate per 1,000.
Description	This measure details the rate of people dispensed oxycodone one or more time in a year per 1,000 population.
Rationale	In a palliative care setting, oxycodone is recommended as second-line treatment for people who cannot tolerate morphine. NICE recommends that oxycodone should not be used for neuropathic pain without specialist assessment. A bpac ^{nz} review noted that oxycodone is more addictive than morphine and does not have a better side-effect profile.
Numerator	Number of people dispensed oxycodone.
Denominator	Stats NZ resident population.
Inclusions	Medication: 3822 oxycodone hydrochloride.
Exclusions	–
Note for calculation	Unit of measure: Rate Adjustment applied: None District health board (DHB) assignment: Domicile
Data sources	Pharmaceutical Collection, Ministry of Health. National population projection, Stats NZ.
Suppression rule	Data is not presented where the denominator was less than 10.
Notes	<i>See appendix for more details.</i>

Appendix 1. Interpretation notes

Standard deviation

Data is presented as standard deviation from the mean.

Standard deviation is a statistical measure of variation from a mean. Assuming that recorded instances are normally distributed (ie, they are in the usual 'bell-shaped curve'), 68 percent of all recorded instances would be expected to be within one standard deviation either side of the mean and 95 percent within two standard deviations. The two 'middle' shades will be within one standard deviation of the mean.

Confidence intervals

Data for each DHB is presented as rate per 1,000 population. Upper and lower confidence intervals were calculated to 95 percent level of confidence.

Calculating magnitude of variation

When reporting the size of variation between DHBs to prevent either low or high outliers having a large effect on the reported ratio, the top and/or bottom DHBs are excluded to avoid overstating the variation.

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