

Co-Prescribing Benzodiazepines and Opioids in Acute Care Discharged Patients



Risk Statement

Patients discharged from acute care settings with prescriptions for both benzodiazepines and opioids are at increased likelihood of overdose.¹

Baseline Rate

(1/1/2019–12/31/2019)

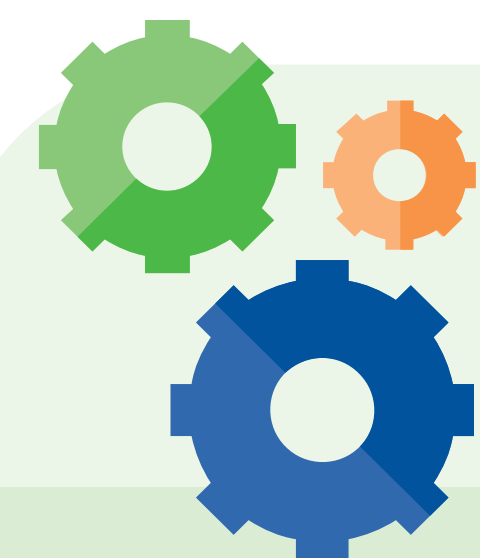
Benzodiazepine and opioid co-prescribing rate is 14.09%.

Goal Rate

Reduce the benzodiazepine and opioid co-prescribing rate to 13.10% or less.

Gap Analysis—Common Issues

- Patients admitted for procedures with benzodiazepines as home medication.
- No checks and balances within electronic health records (EHRs) resulting in poor discharge medication reconciliation.
- Hospital departments are working in silos.
- Prescribers and nurses may not recognize both the brand and generic names for benzodiazepines and opioids.

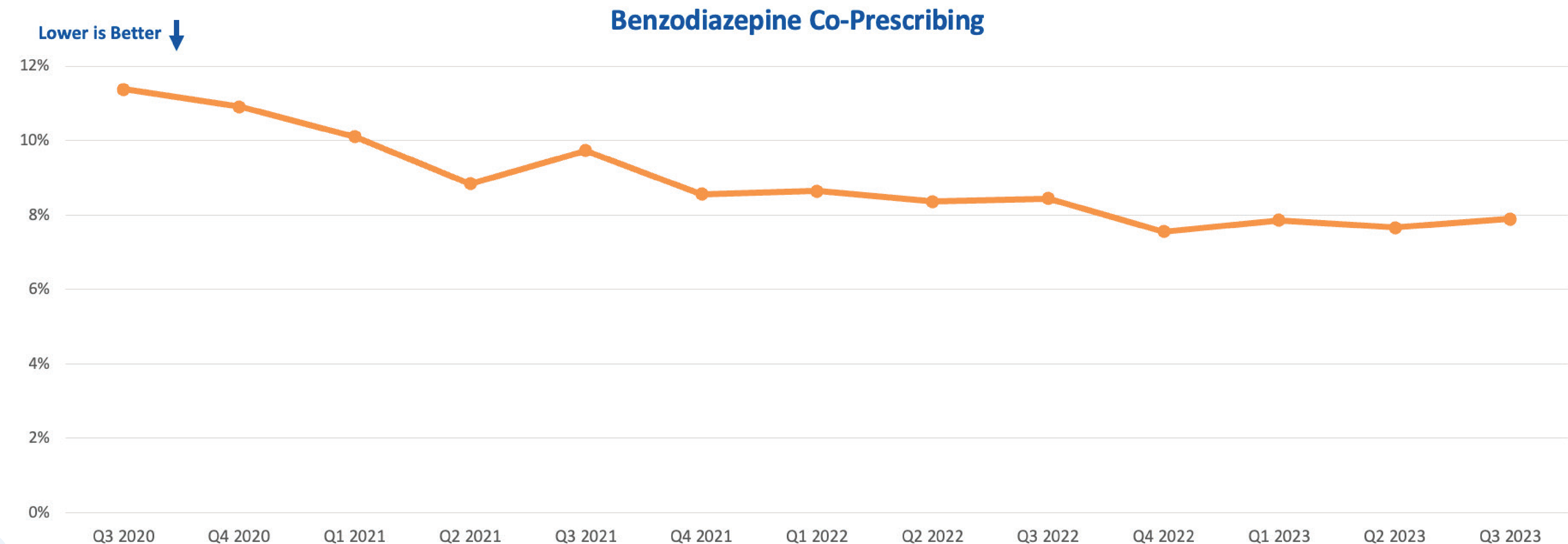


Interventions

- Provided one-on-one support to hospitals to perform a gap analysis and share HSAG HQIC tools and resources.
- Promoted collaboration with providers to taper benzodiazepines.
- Leveraged opioid electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) and benzodiazepine co-prescribing data.
- Partnered with California Bridge to disseminate resources and best practices to hospitals.
- Partnered with American College of Emergency Physicians Emergency Quality Network to focus on reducing opioid-associated harm.
- Developed an Opioid Stewardship Assessment.
- Developed and hosted an HSAG HQIC Opioid Stewardship Peer Group.
- Developed *What to Ask Your Doctor Before Taking Opioids* and *Opioid Comfort Menu*—created by patients for patients.
- Developed a High-Risk Medications handout with pocket card of benzodiazepines and opioids brand and generic names.
- Monitored benzodiazepine co-prescribing on a monthly basis.
- Developed and implemented an Opioid Stewardship Program quickinar series.
- Developed an Opioid Stewardship Roadmap to Success.

Outcomes

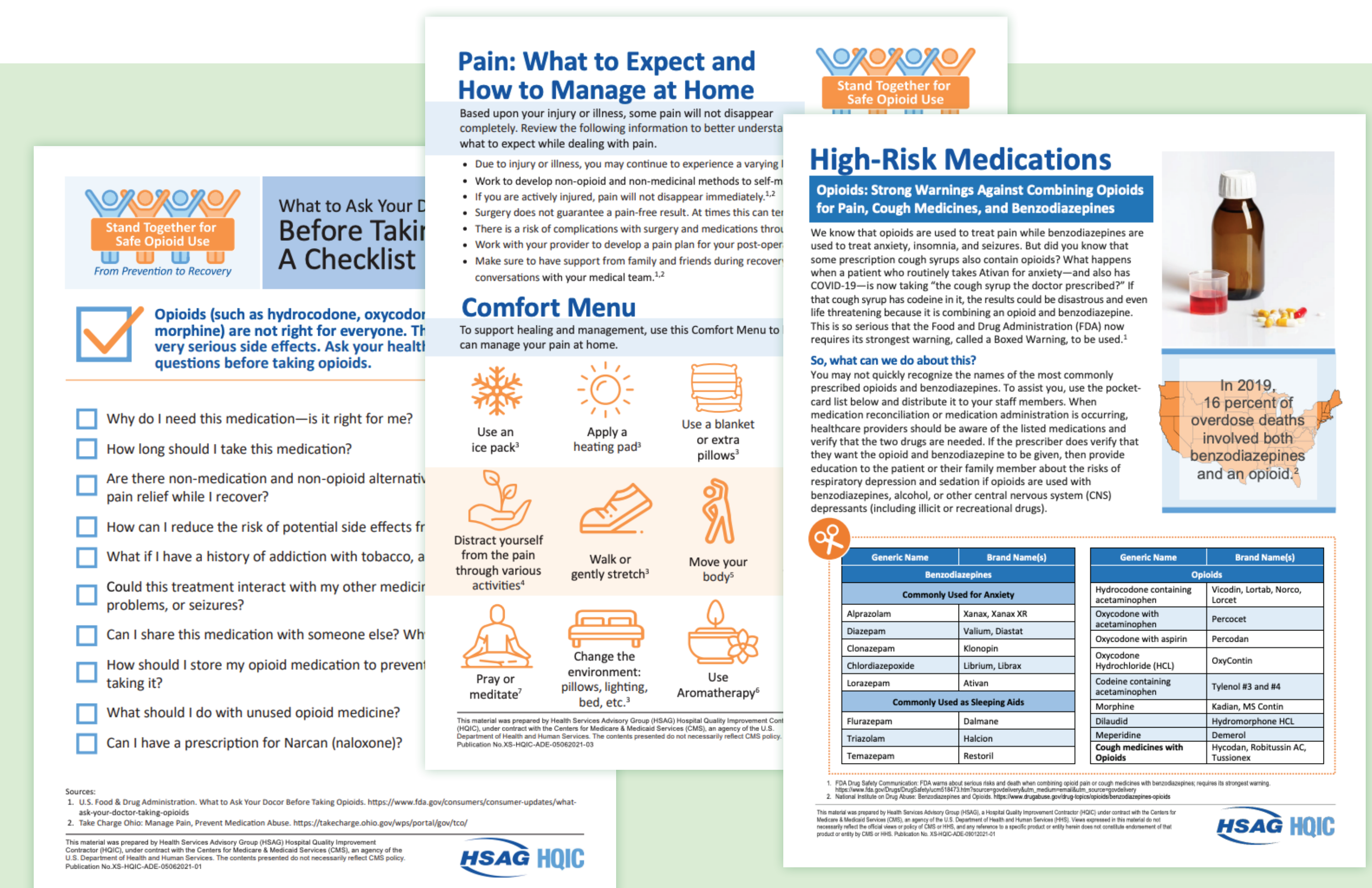
HSAG HQIC benzodiazepine co-prescribing rate saw steady improvement, with the most recent data point of **7.71%** (Q2 2023) outperforming the goal of 13.10%.



Baseline Rate
(1/1/2019–12/31/2019)
14.09%

Goal Rate
13.10%

Current Rate
(Q2 2023)
7.71%



1. Sun E, et al. Association between concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines and overdose. BMJ 2017;356:j760. <https://www.bmj.com/content/356/bmj.j760>.

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