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| **Topic** | **Multiple analgesic medicines** |
| Title | Patients concurrently prescribed multiple analgesic medicines. |
| Description | Number of patients (all ages, aged 17 or under, 18 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 or over) prescribed five or more unique analgesic medicines for three or more consecutive months as a percentage of patients prescribed one or more analgesic medicines for three (or more) consecutive months in the same reporting period. |
| Numerator | Number of patients (all ages, aged 17 or under, 18 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 or over) prescribed five or more unique analgesic medicines (chemical substances) for three or more consecutive months from any of the following groups of analgesic medicines. See appendix 1 for the full list of medicines (chemical substances).

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| **Group** | **BNF description** | **BNF code** |
| 1 | Non-opioid analgesics and compound preparations | 040701 |
| 2 | Opioids | 040702 |
| 3 | Gabapentin | 0408010G0 |
| Gabapentin (Neuropathic Pain) | 0407030AD |
| Pregabalin | 0408010AE |
| Other drugs to treat neuropathic pain | 0407030AF |
| 4 | Analgesics with anti-emetics | 0407041A0 |
| 5 | Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs | 100101 |
| 6 | Amitriptyline Embonate | 0403010E0 |
| Amitriptyline Hydrochloride | 0403010B0 |
| Nortriptyline | 0403010V0 |

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| Denominator | Number of patients (all ages, aged 17 or under, 18 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 or over) patients prescribed one or more analgesic medicines (chemical substances), from the numerator groups of analgesic medicines, for three or more consecutive months (same reporting period as numerator).  |
| Rationale/ Comments  | This comparator is not aimed at addressing addiction to opiates. It is a polypharmacy comparator developed to help practices to identify how many and who of their patients are taking multiple analgesics where there may not be a pain management plan in place and where the patient should be called in for a medication review. Some medicines contain 2 analgesics. This is accounted for in deriving the total of analgesic medicines prescribed. This ensures that the same medicines prescribed either separately or in combination or counted equally. E.g. paracetamol and codeine prescribed separately and co-codamol are both counted as 2 analgesic medicines. Prescribing for 3 (or more) consecutives months addresses acute treatment and the possibility of analgesics being switched during the reporting period and therefore overcalculating the number of analgesic medicines.  |

**Appendix 1**

Numerator and denominator list of medicines (chemical substances) and the number of analgesics in each medicine.

|  | **BNF Paragraph** | **BNF Paragraph Code** | **BNF Chemical Substance** | **BNF Chemical Substance Code** | **Number of analgesic medicines** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Non-opioid analgesics and compound preparations | 040701 | Aspirin | 0407010B0 | 1 |
| 040701 | Aspirin and caffeine | 0407010AA | 1 |
| 040701 | Aspirin and papaveretum | 0407010A0 | 2 |
| 040701 | Aspirin and paracetamol | 0407010S0 | 2 |
| 040701 | Aspirin combined preparations | 0407010W0 | 2 |
| 040701 | Co-codamol (Codeine phosphate/paracetamol) | 0407010F0 | 2 |
| 040701 | Co-codaprin (Codeine phosphate/aspirin) | 0407010M0 | 2 |
| 040701 | Co-dydramol (Dihydrocodeine/paracetamol) | 0407010N0 | 2 |
| 040701 | Co-methiamol (Methionine/paracetamol) | 040701020 | 1 |
| 040701 | Co-proxamol (Dextropropoxyphene hydrochloride/paracetamol) | 0407010Q0 | 2 |
| 040701 | Isometheptene mucate | 0407010AC | 1 |
| 040701 | Nefopam hydrochloride | 0407010P0 | 1 |
| 040701 | Other non-opioid analgesic preparations | 040701000 | 1 |
| 040701 | Paracetamol | 0407010H0 | 1 |
| 040701 | Paracetamol and caffeine | 0407010U0 | 1 |
| 040701 | Paracetamol and ibuprofen | 0407010AD | 2 |
| 040701 | Paracetamol and phenylephrine hydrochloride | 0407010AB | 2 |
| 040701 | Paracetamol combined preparations | 0407010X0 | 2 |
| 2 | Opioid analgesics | 040702 | Buprenorphine | 0407020B0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Codeine phosphate | 0407020C0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Dextromoramide tartrate | 0407020D0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Dextropropoxyphene | 0407020E0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Diamorphine hydrochloride (Systemic) | 0407020K0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Dihydrocodeine tartrate | 0407020G0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Dipipanone hydrochloride | 0407020H0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Fentanyl | 0407020A0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Hydromorphone hydrochloride | 040702050 | 1 |
| 040702 | Meptazinol hydrochloride | 0407020L0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Methadone hydrochloride | 0407020M0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Morphine (Opium Tincture) | 0407020W0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Morphine hydrochloride | 0407020P0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Morphine sulfate | 0407020Q0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Morphine tartrate and cyclizine tartrate | 040702020 | 1 |
| 040702 | Nalbuphine hydrochloride | 0407020Y0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Oxycodone | 0407020Z0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Oxycodone hydrochloride | 0407020AD | 1 |
| 040702 | Oxycodone hydrochloride/naloxone hydrochloride | 0407020AF | 1 |
| 040702 | Papaveretum | 0407020AB | 1 |
| 040702 | Pentazocine hydrochloride | 0407020T0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Pentazocine lactate | 0407020U0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Pethidine hydrochloride | 0407020V0 | 1 |
| 040702 | Tapentadol hydrochloride | 0407020AG | 1 |
| 040702 | Tramadol hydrochloride | 040702040 | 1 |
| 3 | Neuropathic pain | 040703 | Gabapentin (Neuropathic Pain) | 0407030AD | 1 |
| 040703 | Other drugs to treat neuropathic pain | 0407030AF | 1 |
| Control of epilepsy | 040801 | Gabapentin | 0408010G0 | 1 |
| 040801 | Pregabalin | 0408010AE | 1 |
| 4 | Antimigraine drugs | 040704 | Analgesics with anti-emetics | 0407041A0 | 1 |
| 5 | Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs | 100101 | Aceclofenac | 100101080 | 1 |
| 100101 | Acemetacin | 100101050 | 1 |
| 100101 | Azapropazone | 1001010B0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Benorilate | 1001010H0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Celecoxib | 1001010AH | 1 |
| 100101 | Dexibuprofen | 1001010AM | 1 |
| 100101 | Dexketoprofen | 1001010AE | 1 |
| 100101 | Diclofenac potassium | 1001010AG | 1 |
| 100101 | Diclofenac sodium | 1001010C0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Diflunisal | 1001010D0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Etodolac | 1001010E0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Etoricoxib | 1001010AJ | 1 |
| 100101 | Fenbufen | 1001010F0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Fenoprofen | 1001010G0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Flurbiprofen | 1001010I0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Ibuprofen | 1001010J0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Ibuprofen lysine | 1001010AD | 1 |
| 100101 | Ibuprofen sodium dihydrate | 1001010AP | 1 |
| 100101 | Indometacin | 1001010K0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Ketoprofen | 1001010L0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Lornoxicam | 1001010AI | 1 |
| 100101 | Lumiracoxib | 1001010AN | 1 |
| 100101 | Mefenamic acid | 1001010N0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Meloxicam | 1001010AA | 1 |
| 100101 | Nabumetone | 1001010X0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Naproxen | 1001010P0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Naproxen sodium | 100101070 | 1 |
| 100101 | Phenylbutazone | 1001010Q0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Piroxicam | 1001010R0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Rofecoxib | 1001010AF | 1 |
| 100101 | Sulindac | 1001010S0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Tenoxicam | 100101040 | 1 |
| 100101 | Tiaprofenic acid | 1001010T0 | 1 |
| 100101 | Valdecoxib | 1001010AL | 1 |
| 6 | Tricyclic and related antidepressant drugs | 040301 | Amitriptyline hydrochloride | 0403010B0 | 1 |
| 040301 | Nortriptyline | 0403010V0 | 1 |

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