People with diabetes regularly receiving metformin in the relevant year

Te Tāhū Hauora
Health Quality & Safety Commission

Source: /measure/people-diabetes-regularly-receiving-metformin-relevant-year

Official name
Number and percent of people with diabetes dispensed metformin in three or four quarters in the relevant year.

Other names
Indicator #2; Metformin dispensing for people with diabetes

Description

This indicator shows the number and percent of people with diabetes receiving metformin regularly. Regular use was defined as metformin dispensed in three or more quarters in a year.

Rationale

Analysing variation in metformin usage can offer insights into several aspects of diabetes management, including health care access and quality, provider practice, patient preferences, health literacy, adherence and tolerability. This information is valuable for designing targeted interventions to improve diabetes care and reduce disparities in health care delivery.

Measure set
Atlas of Healthcare Variation
Diabetes domain

Health areas and conditions
Home & community
Primary care
Long-term conditions
Medications

Notes about this measure set

- Data is not presented where the number of people in the numerator was less than 10. This is to preserve confidentiality.
- People were assigned to their Health New Zealand ? Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) district of domicile; where more than one domicile was recorded, the most

recent value was selected.

- Ethnicity data presented is prioritised ethnic group (M?ori, Pacific peoples, Indian and European/other). Prioritised ethnic groups involve each participant being assigned to a single ethnic group, based on the ethnicities they have identified with, in the prioritised order of M?ori, Pacific peoples, Indian and European/other. The European/other ethnic group includes persons of the following ethnicities: European (including New Zealand European), MELAA (Middle Eastern, Latin American and African), other Asian and Other. Where people report different ethnic groups at different timepoints, the most recent value is selected.
- Rates are not age standardised; this means our prevalence rates are different to those on the Health New Zealand diabetes dashboard (https://tewhatuora.shinyapps.io/virtual-diabetes-register-web-tool/).
- For all indicators, individuals with missing values for any of the variables of interest (age, gender, ethnicity and district) are excluded completely. For instance, if there are any missing values for age, they are excluded from all analyses. This approach ensures a consistent denominator throughout the analyses.
- Since we aggregate data for the numerator and denominator separately for Indicator #1, we use demographic information from the Virtual Diabetes Register (VDR) for the numerator and from the Primary Health Organisation (PHO) Enrolment Collection for the denominator. For Indicators #2?12, demographic information is taken from the VDR. For Indicator #13, demographic information is from the National Minimum Dataset (NMDS).
- For PHO analyses, we analysed Indicator #1 to determine the size of diabetic population each PHO serves. Then we categorised them into small (< 3,000), medium (3,000?5,000), medium?large (5,000?10,000) and large (> 10,000).

Measure type
Count
Percent

Numerator

People with diabetes dispensed metformin in three or four quarters in the relevant year

Numerator exclusions

Placeholder

Denominator

Count of distinct master NHIs identified as having diabetes as per the VDR.

Data sources
Pharmaceutical Collection (PHARMS)
Virtual Diabetes Register

Disaggregation

For single map analysis: By year (2018?22), age group (0?14 years, 15?24 years, 25?44 years, 45?64 years, 65?74 years and 75+ years), gender (female and male), ethnic group (M ?ori, Pacific peoples, Indian and European/other) and Health New Zealand district of domicile.

For PHO analysis: By year (2022), age group (0?14 years, 15?24 years, 25?44 years, 45?64 years, 65?74 years and 75+ years), gender (female and male), ethnic group (M?ori, Pacific peoples, Indian and European/other), PHO most recently enrolled with (for the relevant year), PHO group (small, medium, medium?large and large).

Notes

Metformin is also used to treat polycystic ovary syndrome in women aged 12?45 years. The VDR attempts to partially address this issue by excluding women aged 12–45 years who are solely identified as a result of metformin use – that is, no other methods identify them as having diabetes.

Responsible organisation(s)

Health Quality & Safety Commission | Te T?h? Hauora

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Measure methodology last updated

Last updated June 2024. This measure has not yet been updated. Refer to the Atlas of Healthcare Variation.