Appendix A: Opioid naïve explained

In relation to defining the cohort as “Opioid naïve for at least 3 months prior to the index prescription being supplied”, in this appendix we define opioid naïve, index prescription and write the logic for the situations in which we had a person’s data INCLUDED in the extraction.

Definitions

- *Opioid naïve*: no opioid dispensing for ≥90 days.
- *Index prescription*: first opioid dispensing record after the opioid naïve period, i.e. ≥90 days.

People who were eligible for inclusion in the cohort

We are interested in people with an opioid dispensing record (irrespective of the type of opioid dispensed; therefore searching was undertaken by ATC code rather than individual PBS item codes). All ATC codes related to any opioid were included. For people that have been dispensed ≥1 opioids during the data extraction period, there are two scenarios in which we want to INCLUDE people in the extraction: if a person’s opioid dispensing record is consistent with scenario A or B at any time throughout the data extraction period.

**Scenario A**: No opioid dispensing record in the first ≥90 days of available data; after this time period, the person has ≥1 opioid dispensing records (irrespective of the type of opioid dispensed.}
**Scenario B**: A person was dispensed an opioid in the first 90 days of data available, **BUT** at some point during the data extraction period, there is a gap of $\geq 90$ days between any two opioid dispensing records. The two opioid dispensing records can be for the same or different opioids.

For all people included in our cohort, we requested their medicine dispensing history for the entire data extraction period. For example, if the data extraction period starts January 1, 2010; but the index opioid dispensing record occurs in December 2012, we want their dispensing records from January 1, 2010 to the final day of the data extraction period.

**People who were not eligible for inclusion in the cohort**

From this logic, we **EXCLUDED** scenarios **C through E**.

**Scenario C**: People without an opioid dispensing record in the entire data extraction period.
**Scenario D:** People with continuous use of opioids: persons with an opioid dispensing record in the first 90 days of data availability, and continuous opioid dispensing records throughout the data extraction period, i.e. <90 days gap between any two sequential opioid dispensing records.

**Scenario E:** Person who stopped using opioids with no further opioid use: persons with an opioid dispensing record in the first 90 days of data availability, who have no further opioid dispensing records during the rest of the data extraction period.