**Objectives & Purpose**

To examine the association between the number of consecutive Triple Threat overlapping days with health care utilization (i.e., hospitalizations and emergency department [ED] visits) and increased total cost of care.

**Methods**

This study used data from 13 health plans with approximately 13–15 million members across the United States.

**Results**

- Approximately 15 million members across 13 health plans were grouped by Triple Threat (Table 1).
- Approximately 3 million members were excluded from the analysis because they had one or more hospitalizations.
- Of the remaining 34,775 members, 5,147 (14.8 percent) of 34,775 members had one or more hospitalizations.
- 1.13 (1.08 to 1.19) **
  - Odds ratio for 2014 higher cost members with 1-7 days of Triple Threat overlap in 2013; and 2013 total cost.

**Conclusions**

- Outcomes in this analysis are all-cause and not specific to the Triple Threat medications. The Triple Threat overlapping days associations with increased total cost of care are consistent with other studies.
- Although this analysis adjusted for the 16-year morbidity risk using the Charlson Comorbidity Index score, the results may be potentially influencing the results. For example, with age, education and income.
- All members were required to have two or more opioid claims on the same calendar day. The results may be potentially influencing the results.

**Limitations**

- It is possible that members who appear to be utilizing Triple Threat medications are not members who are actually utilizing triple threat medications.
- The overlap data in this study is limited to a single year.
- Cash paid prescriptions are not submitted to the pharmacy benefit manager and are not included in the analysis.

**References**


2. J. L. Giguere, N. A. Hardie, J. R. P. Gleason, 800.858.0723, ext. 5190. Prime Therapeutics LLC, Eagan, MN, United States; 34,775 members of the 387,150 members had at least one day of Triple Threat overlap in 2013; and 2013 total cost.

3. Table 2. Triple Threat Overlapping Days: Relationship with Health Care Utilization and Costs


5. Conclusions

- In 2013, at least one day of Triple Threat overlap was found for 4 of 5 commercially insured members 18 years of age and older continuously enrolled for 365 days.
- The results of this analysis demonstrate a statistically significant trend between the number of Triple Threat overlapping days and higher total costs and total health care costs beginning at 21 consecutive days of Triple Threat overlap.
- Health insurers should be actively identifying members who appear to be utilizing Triple Threat medications and engage providers.
- Future research should examine drug specific outcomes of hospitalizations and ED visits.
- The findings from this study may point to pharmacy quality improvement measures.