Background

• Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine use problem is now recognized as a potential cause of respiratory depression that can lead to death.

• The 2016 National Opioid Crisis Letter (September 28, 2016) highlighted the issue of drug combination use and benzodiazepine use and recommended a new measure called “Concurrent use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines.”

• The 2016 CMS Final Call Letter for Medicare and Medicaid Services emphasized the importance of concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines and encouraged Part D sponsors to review their claims data and use available drug utilization management tools to help address the concurrent use of these drug classes.

• In 2015, The Ohio Attorney General announced a stepped-up enforcement efforts and information safety for informed investor relief: opioid labeling, including risks including adverse outcomes due to 'contrary use' of opioid and benzodiazepine combination.

• The 2015 FDA Letter Alerted the Public to the risk associated with the combination of an opioid and benzodiazepine clinical trials.

• Theuri Flurazepam (2057, 035) had evidence that less than 1 percent of Part D plans had concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine claims.

• A 2016 CMS analysis found concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine occurred in 24 percent of Part D plans with evidence that less than 1 percent of Part D plans are less than 1 percent

• The 2016 CMS Final Call Letter for Medicare and Medicaid Services emphasized the importance of concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines and encouraged Part D sponsors to review their claims data and use available drug utilization management tools to help address the concurrent use of these drug classes.

• The launch of a new measure called “Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines” will help address the concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines.