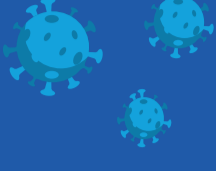


Drug Trends

Evaluating Retail & Mail-Order Prescriptions



COVID-19 Reshaped the Claims Environment in 2020

With stay-at-home orders across the U.S., **new claims decreased across the industry in 2020**. To best represent ongoing trends, Mitchell Pharmacy Solutions compared data for older claim populations.

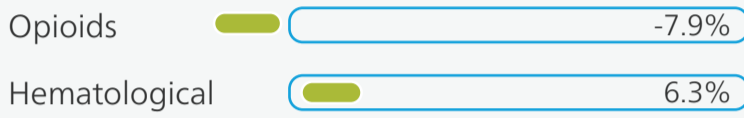
The values in this infographic represent claim data for claim ages 2+ years unless otherwise noted.



Prescription Utilization and Costs Decreased

2020 saw a **3.2% decrease** in utilization per claim (down 0.9% in 2019) and **5.9% decrease** in cost per claim (down 6.0% in 2019).

Of the top 10 therapeutic classes ranked by cost, the largest changes in utilization occurred in the following classes:



Medications to Help Manage Mental Health Shifted

Antidepressants, antipsychotics and psychotherapeutics saw major utilization increases in the new claim population but did not increase significantly (or decreased) in older claims.

This underlines the increased focus on mental health in newer claims during the pandemic.



Opioid Usage Continued to Decrease in Utilization and Cost

Utilization per claim decreased 7.9% (dropped 8.7% in 2019) and cost per claim decreased 12.0% (dropped 10.5% in 2019).

Average MED and High-MED Scripts Declined for 6th Consecutive Year

4.3% Average MED per prescription (down 2.1% in 2019)

1.5% Opioid prescriptions with high MED*

*MED 90 and above



Average Wholesale Price (AWP) Increased Overall

AWP increased 1.1% overall, with a **4.5% increase in brand AWP** and **0.5% decrease in generic AWP**.

Sustained-release opioid class saw a 4.6% increase overall (5.8% brand / 2.1% generic).

Top 6 Therapeutic Classes by Number of Prescriptions

The following therapeutic classes represent the majority of total scripts (65.8%) and have increased or decreased comparatively since 2019:

Opioids	↓	Decrease (still #1)
Anticonvulsants	↘	Slight Decrease
NSAIDS	→	Flat
Muscle Relaxants	↗	Slight Increase
Antidepressants, Non-TCA	↗	Slight Increase
Topicals	↗	Slight Increase

Opioids, anticonvulsants and antidepressants are used more frequently for injuries two years and beyond.



Methodology

This piece is based on 2020 calendar-year retail and mail-order transactions billed through our Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) program.