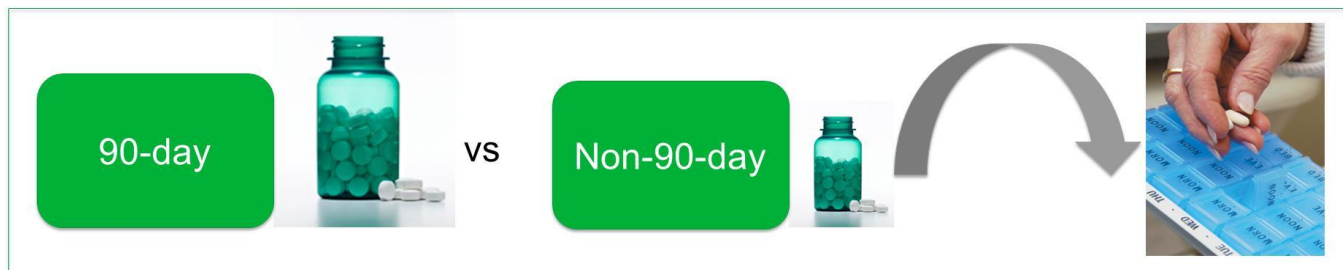# 90-Day Index Fills at Retail Pharmacy Contribute to Higher CMS Star Quality Measures

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), Boston, MA, May 20-24, 2017

Medicare Part D patients starting out with a 90-day supply of CMS Star drug class medications had higher adherence.

OBJECTIVE

- To determine if 90-day index fills at retail pharmacy are associated with greater adherence to medications included in the CMS Star quality measures (diabetes, hypertension, or hyperlipidemia).
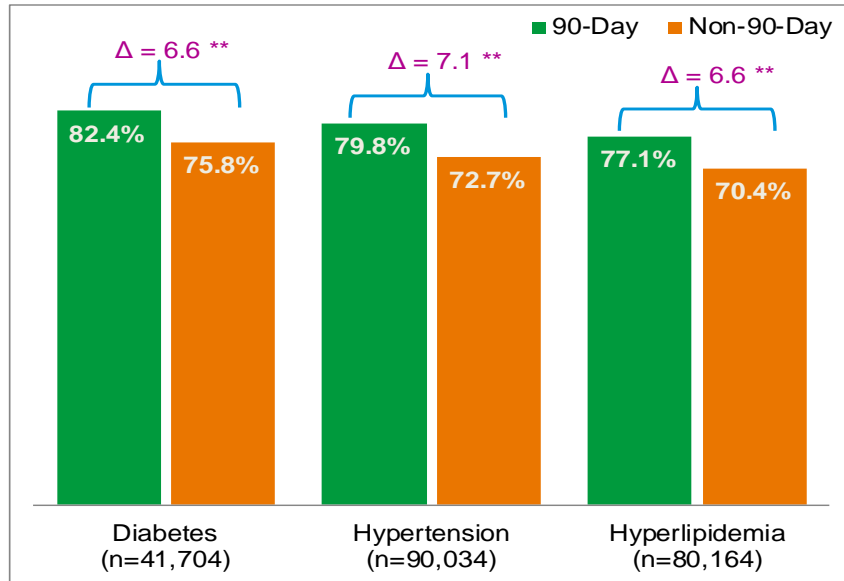
METHODS

- **Study Design:** Observational cohort study.

- **Study Population:** New and established Medicare Part D (Med D) patients 18 years or older who had at least one prescription fill for any of the three CMS Star drug classes (diabetes, hypertension, or hyperlipidemia) at Walgreens retail pharmacy in January 2016.

- **Sub Populations:** Patients who filled their first Star drug prescription (index fill) with a 90-day supply are included in the 90-day group and all others with < 90 days of supply are assigned to the non-90-day group.

- **Measurement Period:** Calendar year (January 2016 to December 2016).

- **Outcome Measures:** Proportion of days covered (PDC) and percent of optimally adherent (OA) patients (PDC ≥ 80%).

- **Statistical Analyses:** Propensity scores were used to match patients in the 90-day group to patients in the non-90-day group on age, gender, copay, comorbidities, and previous medication adherence. Student's t-tests and Chi-square tests were used to evaluate differences between groups. All statistical analyses were conducted using SAS version 9.3 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).
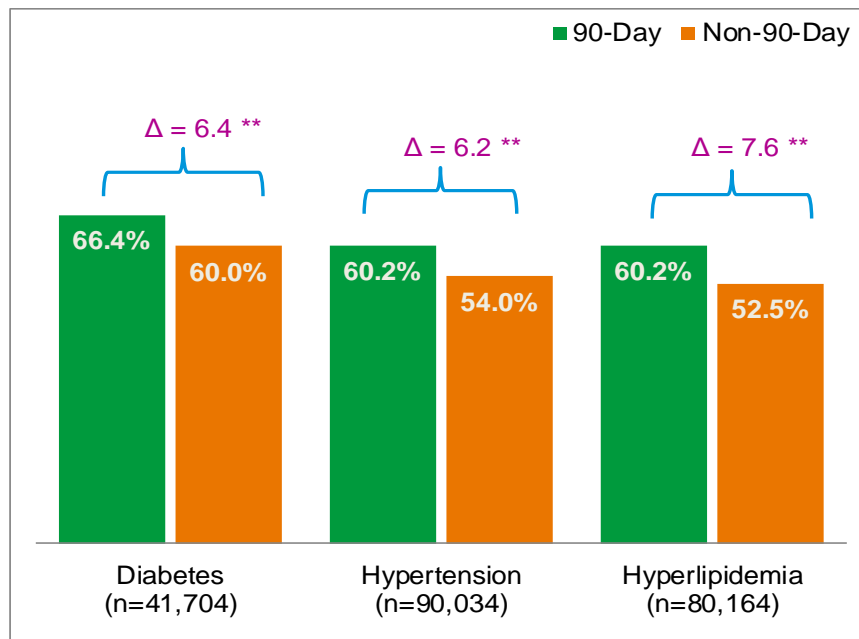
- Average PDCs in all 3 Star drug classes were significantly higher (p ≤ 0.001) for the 90-day group than the non-90-day group (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of Days Covered by Drug Class

- Percent of optimally adherent patients in all 3 Star drug classes were significantly higher (p ≤ 0.001) for the 90-day group than the non-90-day group (See Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percent of Optimally Adherent Patients by Drug Class

CONCLUSIONS

- When Med D patients start the calendar year with a 90-day prescription for Star drug classes at retail pharmacy they have significantly greater adherence than non-90-day prescriptions.