

Selected Opioids Prescribed For Medicare Beneficiaries: By Specialty, 2013

Rank	Medicare Specialty	Total Claim Count	Total Drug Cost	Cost per Claim
1	Family Practice	14,802,399	\$ 590,087,408	\$ 40
2	Internal Medicine	12,480,651	\$ 463,851,656	\$ 37
3	Nurse Practitioner	3,797,320	\$ 201,101,278	\$ 53
4	Physician Assistant	2,938,594	\$ 143,455,281	\$ 49
5	Orthopedic Surgery	2,678,743	\$ 49,297,102	\$ 18
6	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	2,078,869	\$ 179,288,434	\$ 86
7	Anesthesiology	1,839,540	\$ 147,896,224	\$ 80
8	Interventional Pain Management	1,825,796	\$ 149,377,670	\$ 82
9	Emergency Medicine	1,786,299	\$ 24,614,181	\$ 14
10	Pain Management	1,085,847	\$ 89,782,181	\$ 83
11	General Practice	980,534	\$ 39,009,571	\$ 40
12	Rheumatology	858,728	\$ 40,145,595	\$ 47
13	Dentist	833,357	\$ 4,457,413	\$ 5
14	General Surgery	808,774	\$ 10,913,405	\$ 13
15	Neurology	733,825	\$ 63,382,147	\$ 86
16	Hematology/Oncology	555,424	\$ 34,518,034	\$ 62
17	Urology	363,434	\$ 3,349,442	\$ 9
18	Neurosurgery	344,624	\$ 9,937,898	\$ 29
19	Geriatric Medicine	343,809	\$ 10,894,925	\$ 32
20	Oral Surgery (dentists only)	299,872	\$ 1,822,352	\$ 6
21	Podiatry	272,013	\$ 3,286,586	\$ 12
22	Nephrology	206,683	\$ 5,431,974	\$ 26
23	Cardiology	197,743	\$ 5,141,579	\$ 26
24	Medical Oncology	165,999	\$ 10,794,745	\$ 65
25	Otolaryngology	147,837	\$ 1,935,697	\$ 13
26	Pulmonary Disease	131,888	\$ 4,564,689	\$ 35
27	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	115,052	\$ 1,955,034	\$ 17
28	Student in an Organized Health Care Edu	111,236	\$ 1,994,022	\$ 18
29	Vascular Surgery	110,732	\$ 1,110,465	\$ 10
30	Obstetrics/Gynecology	107,592	\$ 3,394,508	\$ 32
31	Psychiatry	107,487	\$ 10,368,415	\$ 96
32	Infectious Disease	93,991	\$ 5,981,072	\$ 64
33	Maxillofacial Surgery	90,550	\$ 579,160	\$ 6

Rank	Medicare Specialty	Total Claim Count	Total Drug Cost	Cost per Claim
34	Hand Surgery	86,358	\$ 838,621	\$ 10
35	Dermatology	79,830	\$ 440,702	\$ 6
36	Ophthalmology	77,403	\$ 842,400	\$ 11
37	Gastroenterology	74,114	\$ 2,784,711	\$ 38
38	Pediatric Medicine	72,024	\$ 2,844,733	\$ 39
39	Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine	51,357	\$ 3,406,611	\$ 66
40	Radiation Oncology	47,674	\$ 1,633,039	\$ 34
41	Thoracic Surgery	44,542	\$ 828,649	\$ 19
42	Specialist	43,043	\$ 3,605,001	\$ 84
43	Colorectal Surgery (formerly proctology)	36,540	\$ 449,226	\$ 12
44	Endocrinology	36,318	\$ 1,350,014	\$ 37
45	Cardiac Surgery	34,562	\$ 361,580	\$ 10
46	Hematology	30,831	\$ 2,277,666	\$ 74
47	Preventive Medicine	28,539	\$ 2,336,923	\$ 82
48	Orthopaedic Surgery	26,115	\$ 1,052,521	\$ 40
49	Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist	26,037	\$ 1,662,200	\$ 64
50	Hospice and Palliative Care	23,529	\$ 2,829,669	\$ 120
51	Sports Medicine	23,512	\$ 421,594	\$ 18
52	Gynecological/Oncology	22,275	\$ 511,723	\$ 23
53	Registered Nurse	21,531	\$ 1,361,502	\$ 63
54	Family Medicine	20,393	\$ 1,176,544	\$ 58
55	Diagnostic Radiology	19,480	\$ 941,230	\$ 48
56	Psychiatry & Neurology	18,578	\$ 2,338,436	\$ 126
57	Surgical Oncology	14,007	\$ 235,548	\$ 17
58	Addiction Medicine	13,422	\$ 1,895,619	\$ 141
59	Allergy/Immunology	12,897	\$ 542,334	\$ 42
60	Critical Care (Intensivists)	12,663	\$ 486,026	\$ 38
61	Pharmacist	12,005	\$ 1,459,720	\$ 122
62	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	11,227	\$ 68,414	\$ 6
63	Cardiac Electrophysiology	10,181	\$ 62,998	\$ 6
64	Neuropsychiatry	8,791	\$ 1,438,865	\$ 164
65	CRNA	6,963	\$ 837,765	\$ 120
66	Interventional Radiology	6,041	\$ 180,479	\$ 30
67	Plastic Surgery	4,927	\$ 42,081	\$ 9
68	Neurological Surgery	4,861	\$ 444,805	\$ 92

Rank	Medicare Specialty	Total Claim Count	Total Drug Cost	Cost per Claim
69	Multispecialty Clinic/Group Practice	4,716	\$ 193,151	\$ 41
70	Clinic/Center	4,249	\$ 193,861	\$ 46
71	Unknown Physician Specialty Code	3,980	\$ 333,049	\$ 84
72	Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine, Sports M	3,511	\$ 467,233	\$ 133
73	Legal Medicine	3,190	\$ 179,793	\$ 56
74	Pathology	3,097	\$ 244,621	\$ 79
75	Hospitalist	3,084	\$ 75,148	\$ 24
76	Peripheral Vascular Disease	2,724	\$ 100,812	\$ 37
77	Naturopath	2,060	\$ 77,955	\$ 38
78	Certified Nurse Midwife	2,035	\$ 102,317	\$ 50
79	Personal Emergency Response Attendant	1,762	\$ 445,005	\$ 253
80	Optometry	1,715	\$ 71,435	\$ 42
81	Surgery	1,628	\$ 16,733	\$ 10
82	Hospital (Dmercs Only)	1,601	\$ 25,363	\$ 16
83	Chiropractic	1,509	\$ 57,099	\$ 38
84	Nuclear Medicine	1,351	\$ 28,704	\$ 21
85	Licensed Practical Nurse	1,315	\$ 37,998	\$ 29
86	Physical Therapist	1,214	\$ 143,626	\$ 118
87	Rehabilitation Agency	675	\$ 11,943	\$ 18
88	Thoracic Surgery (Cardiothoracic Vascula	606	\$ 14,474	\$ 24
89	Counselor	463	\$ 13,236	\$ 29
90	Driver	439	\$ 3,632	\$ 8
91	Obstetrics & Gynecology	421	\$ 8,758	\$ 21
92	Case Manager/Care Coordinator	417	\$ 44,029	\$ 106
93	Medical Genetics, Ph.D. Medical Genetics	399	\$ 11,235	\$ 28
94	Independent Medical Examiner	380	\$ 61,259	\$ 161
95	Acupuncturist	377	\$ 7,074	\$ 19
96	Colon & Rectal Surgery	366	\$ 3,896	\$ 11
97	SNF (Dmercs Only)	343	\$ 6,675	\$ 19
98	Health Maintenance Organization	335	\$ 12,524	\$ 37
99	Psychologist (billing independently)	301	\$ 15,444	\$ 51
100	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	272	\$ 21,386	\$ 79
101	Sleep Medicine	240	\$ 3,908	\$ 16
102	Point of Service	211	\$ 4,810	\$ 23
103	Speech Language Pathologist	205	\$ 13,273	\$ 65

Rank	Medicare Specialty	Total Claim Count	Total Drug Cost	Cost per Claim
104	Denturist	177	\$ 664	\$ 4
105	Radiology	163	\$ 3,019	\$ 19
106	Clinical Psychologist	162	\$ 4,210	\$ 26
107	Rehabilitation Practitioner	122	\$ 2,555	\$ 21
108	Community Health Worker	121	\$ 1,747	\$ 14
109	Unknown Supplier/Provider	98	\$ 2,156	\$ 22
110	Geriatric Psychiatry	98	\$ 21,442	\$ 219
111	Preferred Provider Organization	91	\$ 4,989	\$ 55
112	Marriage & Family Therapist	89	\$ 4,375	\$ 49
113	Occupational therapist	87	\$ 2,764	\$ 32
114	Contractor	77	\$ 1,069	\$ 14
115	Psychologist	72	\$ 1,638	\$ 23
116	Slide Preparation Facility	69	\$ 339	\$ 5
117	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	65	\$ 825	\$ 13
118	Clinical Pharmacology	60	\$ 560	\$ 9
119	Religious Nonmedical Nursing Personnel	60	\$ 951	\$ 16
120	Military Health Care Provider	60	\$ 309	\$ 5
121	Clinical Neuropsychologist	55	\$ 1,743	\$ 32
122	Technician/Technologist	49	\$ 314	\$ 6
123	Ambulatory Surgical Center	49	\$ 200	\$ 4
124	Nutritionist	42	\$ 1,319	\$ 31
125	Respite Care	42	\$ 320	\$ 8
126	Homeopath	36	\$ 711	\$ 20
127	Genetic Counselor, MS	34	\$ 2,108	\$ 62
128	Anesthesiologist Assistants	32	\$ 146	\$ 5
129	Ambulance Service Supplier	32	\$ 380	\$ 12
130	Physical Therapy Assistant	28	\$ 782	\$ 28
131	Assisted Living Facility	27	\$ 309	\$ 11
132	Psychoanalyst	24	\$ 1,415	\$ 59
133	Pharmacy	24	\$ 320	\$ 13
134	General Acute Care Hospital	22	\$ 110	\$ 5
135	Occupational Therapy Assistant	22	\$ 766	\$ 35
136	Chronic Disease Hospital	19	\$ 122	\$ 6
137	Durable Medical Equipment & Medical S	18	\$ 94	\$ 5
138	Nursing Facility, Other (Dmercs Only)	18	\$ 188	\$ 10

Rank	Medicare Specialty	Total Claim Count	Total Drug Cost	Cost per Claim
139	Specialist/Technologist	17	\$ 240	\$ 14
140	Optician	17	\$ 537	\$ 32
141	Dental Hygienist	14	\$ 54	\$ 4
142	Social Worker	13	\$ 132	\$ 10
143	Registered Dietician/Nutrition Profession	13	\$ 614	\$ 47
144	Radiologic Technologist	12	\$ 102	\$ 9
145	Nursing Care	12	\$ 527	\$ 44
146	Day Training, Developmentally Disabled \$	12	\$ 119	\$ 10
147	Nurse's Aide	11	\$ 95	\$ 9
148	Midwife	11	\$ 102	\$ 9
	Grand Total	54,411,379	\$ 2,360,829,036	\$ 43

Comments:

- Data from CMS release of Part-D and Medicare Managed Care programs; CY 2013.
- Extracted and edited by Peter Hasselbacher, MD; Kentucky Health Policy Institute, June 5, 2015

Column Headings:

- "Rank"= Ranking based on number of claims.
- "Specialty" as determined by Medicare.
- "Total Claim Count"= Number of original prescriptions and refills.
- "Total Drug Cost"= Aggregate total drug cost paid for all associated claims. Includes ingredient cost, dispensing fee, sales tax, supplemental and other insurance payments, and out-of-pocket costs.