

Several queries have been developed to help you use your EMR to create registries of patients who use opioids. They will allow you to identify patients:

- **Who have one or more current prescriptions for opioid use**
 - Currently available for TELUS PS, Accuro, and OSCAR EMRs
- **Who have concurrent prescriptions for *both* opioid *and* benzodiazepine use**
 - Currently available for TELUS PS, Accuro, and OSCAR EMRs
- **Who have one or more current prescriptions for opioid use with high morphine equivalent (MEQ)**
 - Currently available for OSCAR EMR
 - In development for TELUS PS and Accuro EMRs

Creating this list is a first step in developing a program to manage opioid prescriptions in your team.

NOTE: All queries are tested and validated prior to release. However, changes that take place after the queries are released may affect how accurate they are. Such changes could include EMR software updates, new medications, and changes to standard clinical definitions. They may result in false positives, that is, patients being flagged who do not have the specified condition. They may also result in false negatives, that is, patients not being flagged who do have the condition. Queries are also limited by the quality of your EMR data. Please exercise judgement when using them, as they are meant to support and complement a chart review, not to replace it.

ALERT -- TELUS USERS: As of the most recent update from TELUS, the opioid queries built by the Algorithm Project team are no longer completing properly. Thanks to the collective action of the Algorithm Project team, the issue has been escalated within TELUS and will be tracked by the EMR Communities of Practice for speedy resolution. Thank you for your patience.

Technical Details of The Query Criteria

To view the case definitions for the developed queries, please refer to the case definition documents which is available in PDF or on the "[Getting Started with an Opioid Use Registry](http://www.afhto.ca)" page at www.afhto.ca.

Note: This is just one component of the vast amount of work being done in the province on dealing with the issues associated with opioid use. More information will be added to this post when it becomes available. To learn more about opioid prescribing in the province, visit Health Quality Ontario's post on [Opioid Prescribing in Ontario](#).

Step 1. Import the query into your EMR. Right now, you can only do this if you have TELUS PS Suite, Accuro by QHR Technologies, or OSCAR EMR. You will likely need the help of your Quality Improvement Decision Support Specialist, IT staff or anyone who usually works with your EMR to do this.

- **For TELUS PS**, visit www.afhto.ca and search “[Getting Started with an Opioid Use Registry](#)”, from there you can download the **.srx files** using the links provided, and import them into your EMR. Queries available include:
 - Opioid prescription
 - Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions
 - In development: high-MEQ opioid prescription

- **For Accuro**, download the queries from the Publisher (within your EMR).
 - Queries available: opioid prescription (“AFHTO Opioid Frontend Search”); concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions (“AFHTO Opioids and Benzos Frontend Search v1.”)
 - Query in development: high-MEQ opioid prescription

- **For OSCAR**, visit www.afhto.ca and search “[Getting Started with an Opioid Use Registry](#)”, from there you can open the **.txt files** using the links provided and copy and paste the code to your EMR. Queries available include:
 - Opioid prescription
 - Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions
 - High-MEQ opioid prescription

Step 2. Run the query in your EMR. Again, you might need the help of your Quality Improvement Decision Support Specialist, IT staff or anyone who usually runs queries in your EMR. Running the query will produce a list of patients prescribed an opioid. The query gets you started in building a registry of patients but doesn’t do the whole job for you.