Association of Medicare Part D Benzodiazepine Coverage Expansion in Fall-Related Injuries and Overdoses Among Medicare Advantage Beneficiaries

10-Fold Increase in Benzodiazepine (BZD) Prescription Claims was Associated with Small Increases in Rates of Overdose and Fall-Related Injury for Some Older Adults

Ecological study pre- and post-2013
BZD coverage expansion in Part D

4.6 M Medicare Advantage (MA) vs.
941k commercially-insured older adults (age 65+)

After 2013: Small increase in monthly rates of overdose among those aged 65-69 and 80+

Monthly rate change, 65-69:
• MA (0.23 [0.17, 0.30])
• Comparison (0.02 [-0.06, 0.11])

Monthly rate change, 80+:
• MA (0.12 [0.07, 0.17])
• Comparison (-0.01 [-0.11, 0.10])

After 2013: Small increase in monthly rates of fall-related injury among those aged 80+

Monthly rate change, 80+:
• MA (0.12 [0.07, 0.17])
• Comparison (-0.01 [-0.11, 0.10])