Recent Medicare Part D claims data suggests there may be ongoing treatment gaps in drug therapy for osteoporosis.

Results

- The data showed a decrease in osteoporosis medication claims each year of the 6 years, as compared to total Medicare Part D claims (figure 1).
  - In 2012, osteoporosis medication claims accounted for 1.092% of all Medicare Part D claims, which decreased to 0.683% by the year 2017.
  - This amounts to a decrease of 37.5% over this 6-year span.

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  - This amounts to a decrease of 37.5% over this 6-year span.

- The percentage change from the baseline utilization in 2012 was then calculated for each year.
  - Injectable osteoporosis medications increased while oral medications decreased (figure 2).
  - Injectable utilization increased from 9.988% of total osteoporosis medications in 2012 to 9.594% in 2017, representing a 4.2% increase over the study time.

Table 3. Annual utilization of medications indicated to treat osteoporosis in Medicare Part D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Medicare Part D Claims</th>
<th>Oral Claims</th>
<th>Injectable Claims</th>
<th>Injectable Only Claims</th>
<th>Oral/Injectable Claims</th>
<th>Injectable/Oral Claims</th>
<th>Injectable Only/Old Claims</th>
<th>Injectable Only/Total Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12,077,575 (100)</td>
<td>11,957,794</td>
<td>1,092,781</td>
<td>993,821 (98.1%)</td>
<td>993,821 (98.1%)</td>
<td>0.994%</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
<td>0.004%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- The study was limited by the level of detail in publicly available CMS datasets. Additional research is needed to determine if the decrease in osteoporosis claims over this time period is consistent across all Medicare beneficiaries and costs impacting this trend may cause.
- The decrease in total claims for osteoporosis medications, as a percent of all claims in the Medicare Part D population, helps support data seen in other studies regarding the potential gap in utilization of drugs to treat osteoporosis.

References