



# Perspectives on Medication Adherence and Safety

February 20, 2018  
2pm – 3pm ET

# Agenda

## Welcome and Overview of eMAC

- **Jennifer Covich Bordenick**, CEO, eHealth Initiative

## Discussion & Comments

- **Rick Ratliff**, President and Chief Commercial Officer, ConnectiveRx
- **Tim Arnold**, Senior Strategist, Advocate Cerner Collaborative, Cerner Corporation
- **Mike Fitzgibbons**, Vice President, Pharmacy STARs, UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement

## Q&A



**Rick Ratliff**  
President & Chief  
Commercial Officer  
ConnectiveRX



**Mike Fitzgibbons**  
Vice President,  
Pharmacy STARS  
UnitedHealthcare  
Medicare & Retirement



**Tim Arnold**  
Senior Strategist,  
Advocate Cerner  
Collaborative  
Cerner  
Corporation

# Housekeeping Issues

- All participants are muted
  - To ask a question or make a comment, please submit via the Q&A feature and we will address as many as possible after the presentations.
- Technical difficulties:
  - Use the chat box and we will respond as soon as possible
- Questions:
  - Use Q&A feature
- Today's slides will be available for download on eHI's Resource page **[www.ehidc.org/resources](http://www.ehidc.org/resources)**

# Our Mission

eHealth Initiative's mission is to serve as the industry leader convening executives from multi-stakeholder groups to identify best practices to transform healthcare through use of technology and innovation. eHI conducts, research, education and advocacy activities to support the transformation of healthcare.





# Multi-stakeholder Leaders in Every Sector of Healthcare



# eHealth Resource Center Available With Best Practices & Findings

Best Practice Committees contribute to the eHealth Resource Center [www.ehdc.org/resources](http://www.ehdc.org/resources) which provides assistance, education and information to organizations transforming healthcare through the use of information, technology and innovation. The Resource Center is a compilation of reports, presentations, survey results, best practices and case studies from the last 16 years.



Convening  
Executives  
To Research  
& Identify  
Best  
Practices

Best Practice  
Committees  
Identify &  
Disseminate  
Success Stories



**VALUE &  
REIMBURSEMENT**



**TECHNOLOGY &  
ANALYTICS**



**WORKFLOW &  
PATIENT EXPERIENCE**





**This webinar was made possible through the  
generosity and support of Cerner,  
ConnectiveRX, and UnitedHealthcare!**

# Electronic Medication Adherence Collaborative (eMAC)

## Why eMAC?

- Poor medication adherence costs the healthcare system nearly \$300 billion a year and takes the lives of 125,000 Americans annually
- Solving medication adherence issues would have a significant impact on downstream costs and improve outcomes for patients
- Current medication adherence initiatives are siloed and narrowly focused
- Pharmacies, clinicians, payers, pharmaceutical companies and EHR vendors are spending money on adherence programs, but unsure of their effectiveness
- Many of these silo efforts are disjointed and lack a multi-disciplinary approach
- A forum is needed to share information about efforts and coordinate across the spectrum of healthcare stakeholders

# eMAC Participants

- American College of Physicians
- American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
- American Heart Association
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Anthem
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Care Angel
- Cerner
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
- ConnectiveRX
- CRISP
- Eli Lilly and Company
- HIMSS
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Health Employer Exchange
- Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy, Duke University
- Johns Hopkins Adherence Research Center (JHARC)
- Johnson & Johnson
- Merck & Co.
- National Alliance Healthcare Purchaser Coalition
- National Coalition on Healthcare
- National Community Pharmacists Association
- National Institute of Mental Health
- Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII)
- Network Pharmacy Programs, Community Care of North Carolina, Inc., Community Care North Carolina
- NIMH Division of AIDS Research
- PatientBond
- Pharmacy HIT Collaborative
- Point-of-Care Partners, LLC
- PremierDNA
- Prescriptions for Healthy America (P4HA)
- PwC
- Rush University Medical Center
- Smart & Connected Health, Directorate for Computers & Information Systems, National Science Foundation
- Surescripts
- United Healthcare
- University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy
- University of Pennsylvania
- Walgreens

# Launch of eMAC

In 2017 eHI launched a multi-stakeholder Electronic Medication Adherence Collaborative (eMAC) to create a forum for data transparencies to encourage stakeholders to work more closely together, and ensure EHR vendors have systems to ensure the data flows.

# eMAC Charter

- Outline the key points of data which are spread across the industry
- Outline actions which could be taken to share this data more effectively between stakeholders
- Share best practice examples from the different analytical and behavioral approaches to educate different stakeholders on the insights available
- Share information on the effectiveness of programs.
- Release consensus based industry and policy recommendations
- Recommendations will be publicly disseminated for general and professional audiences



# Approach: Behavioral and Analytical

- Behavioral:
  - Programs focusing on counseling at the pharmacy point, motivational interviewing techniques, or exploring barriers patient face
- Analytic approaches focus on:
  - Access to quality data
  - Permission to share the data
  - Interoperability
  - Provider's ability to make use of the data analytics



Rick Ratliff

President and Chief Commercial Officer,  
ConnectiveRx

# eMAC September 19, 2017

## Roundtable

- High level analysis of barriers to medication adherence
- Review of current tools to track adherence
- Discussion on emerging best practices and studies
- Consensus around a need for a medication adherence vital sign to drive the patient conversation

# eMAC December 12, 2017

## Roundtable

- Considered adherence as a quality measure – FICO score for adherence
- Continued review of barriers to adherence including social and behavior determinants
- Discussion on driving improved collaboration across points of care and use of technology
- Concluded with revisiting the need for a vital sign for medication adherence

# Medication Adherence

Benefits – Barriers – Contributors

Mike Fitzgibbons

Vice President, Pharmacy STARs

UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement



# Medication Adherence Benefits

Medication Adherence is defined by the World Health Organization as “The degree to which a person’s behavior corresponds with the agreed recommendation from a health care provider. Poor adherence can result in serious health consequences”

*An estimated third to one-half of all patients in the U.S. do not take their medications as prescribed by their doctors.*

New England Healthcare Institute. (2009). Thinking Outside the Pillbox: A System-Wide Approach to Improving Patient Medication Adherence for Chronic Disease.

*Reductions in hospitalizations and emergency department visits are key drivers of declining health costs associated with improved medication adherence.*

M. Christopher Roebuck, et al.(2011). Medication Adherence Leads to Lower Health Care Use And Costs Despite Increased Drug Spending. Health Affairs 30, No.1, 91-99.

*Adherence to prescribed medications is associated with improved clinical outcomes for chronic disease management and reduced mortality from chronic conditions*

Vrijens B, De Geest S, Hughes DA, et al.; ABC Project Team. A new taxonomy for describing and defining adherence to medications. Br J Clin Pharmacol 2012;73:691–705. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2125.2012.04167.x>

# Common Barriers to Adherence

**Patients exhibit non-adherence for various reasons. Each patient has individual reasons for not taking their medications regularly which include:**

- **Forgetfulness (to take medications daily)**
- **Health Literacy**
- **Cost**
- **Tardiness in timely re-filling prescriptions**
- **Side Effects**

# Contributors to Improving Adherence



## Physicians

- Improving adherence is a continual process of changing behavior.



## Caregivers

- Medication adherence has to be reinforced regularly to ensure behavior is matching therapy instruction.



## Pharmacists

- Monitoring and measuring adherence is complex and is reliant on pharmacy claims.



## Health Plan Coordination

- Creating visibility to non-adherence is key to driving timely, local patient engagement.

# Medication Adherence as a Vital Sign

Advocate Cerner Collaborative



*Tim Arnold, Manager, Cerner Corporation*

February 20, 2018

eMAC Webinar



# Characteristics of a “Vital Sign”

- Key indicator of health
- Measurable
- Widely understood (consistent definition across settings)
- Easily interpreted
- Actionable



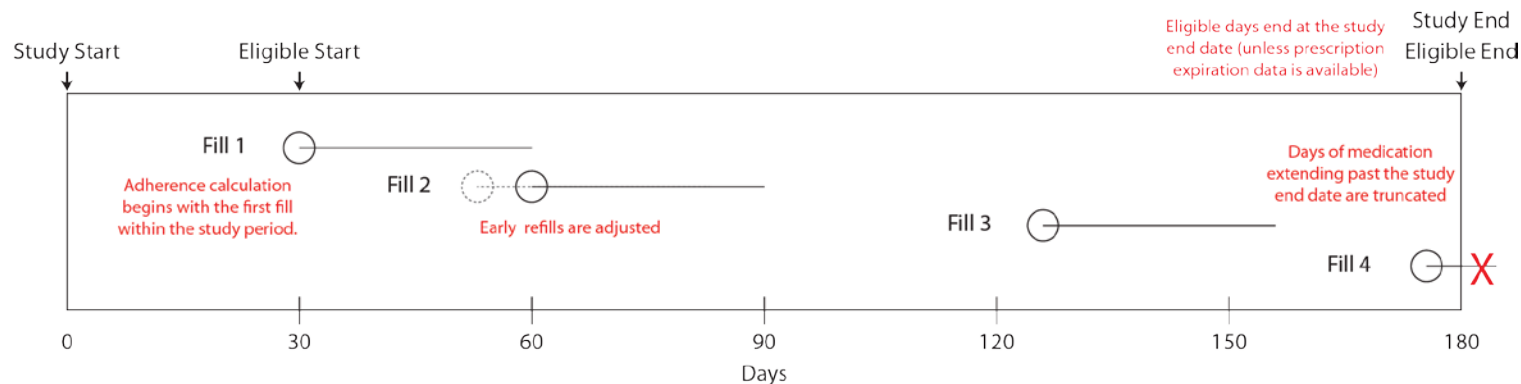
# Why make Med Adherence a “Vital Sign”?

- Poor medication adherence is well-documented as a significant factor to poor health outcomes
- It can be measured
- It is actionable

# Challenges

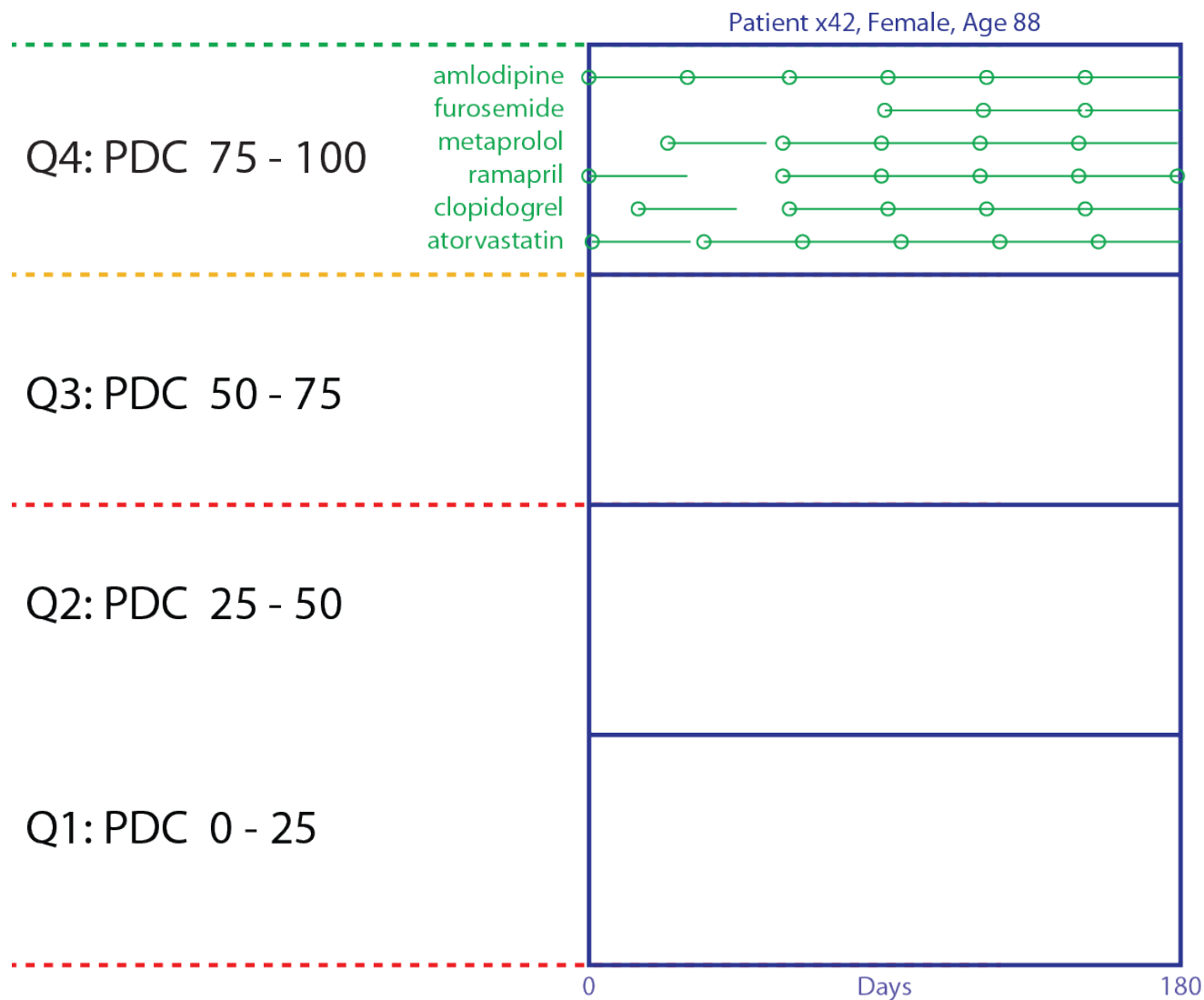
- Not easy to measure
  - Objective data is difficult to collect
  - Self reporting is inconsistent
- Not easily interpreted
- Appropriate actions might not be self-evident

# One Approach: Claims-based

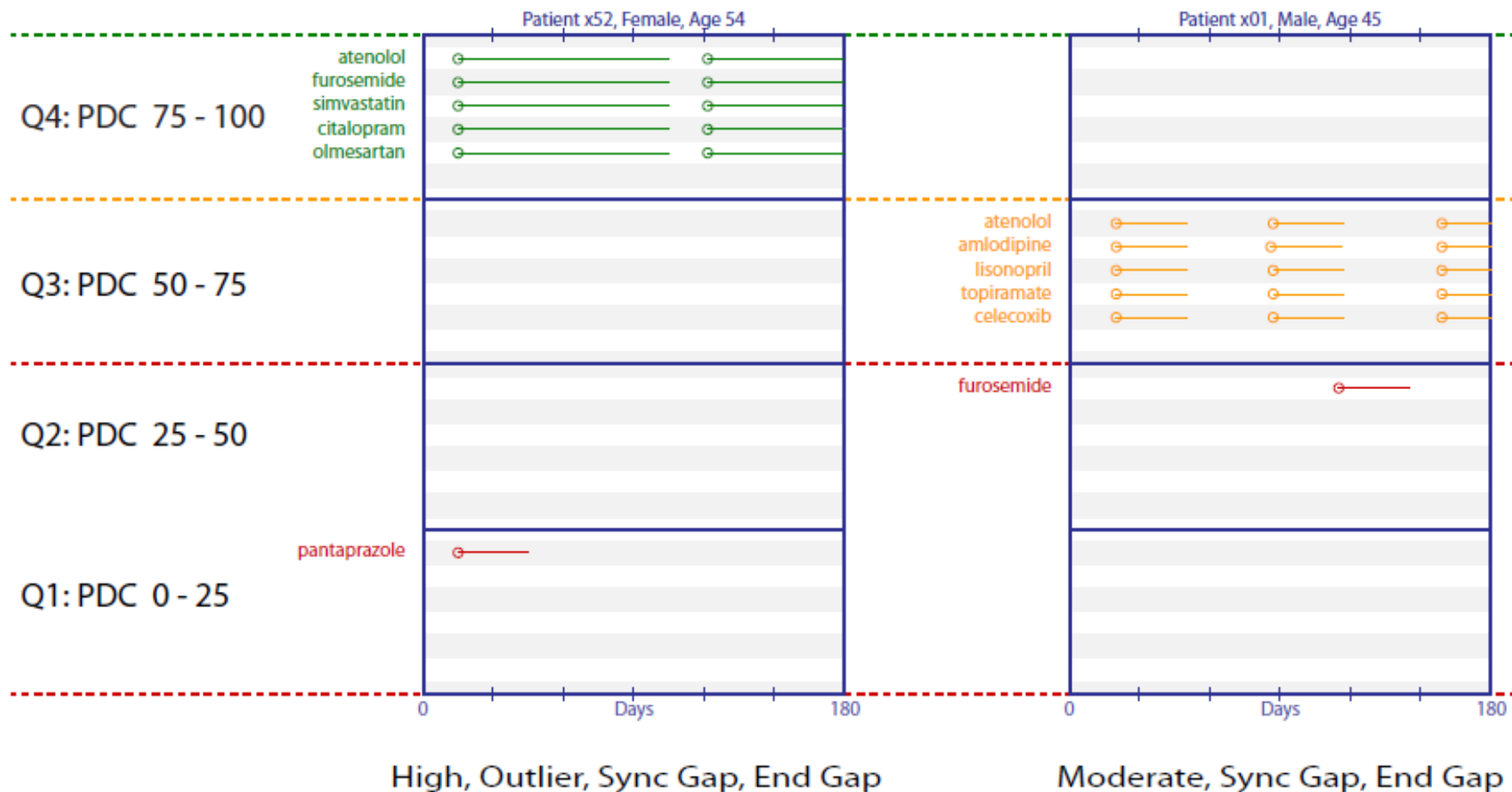


- Claims-based medication adherence measures are based on how often medication was available to the patient during a given period of time
- Percentage of Days Covered (PDC) is the most widely accepted method.
- 80% is widely used as the adherence threshold.

# Adherence Pattern Graphics

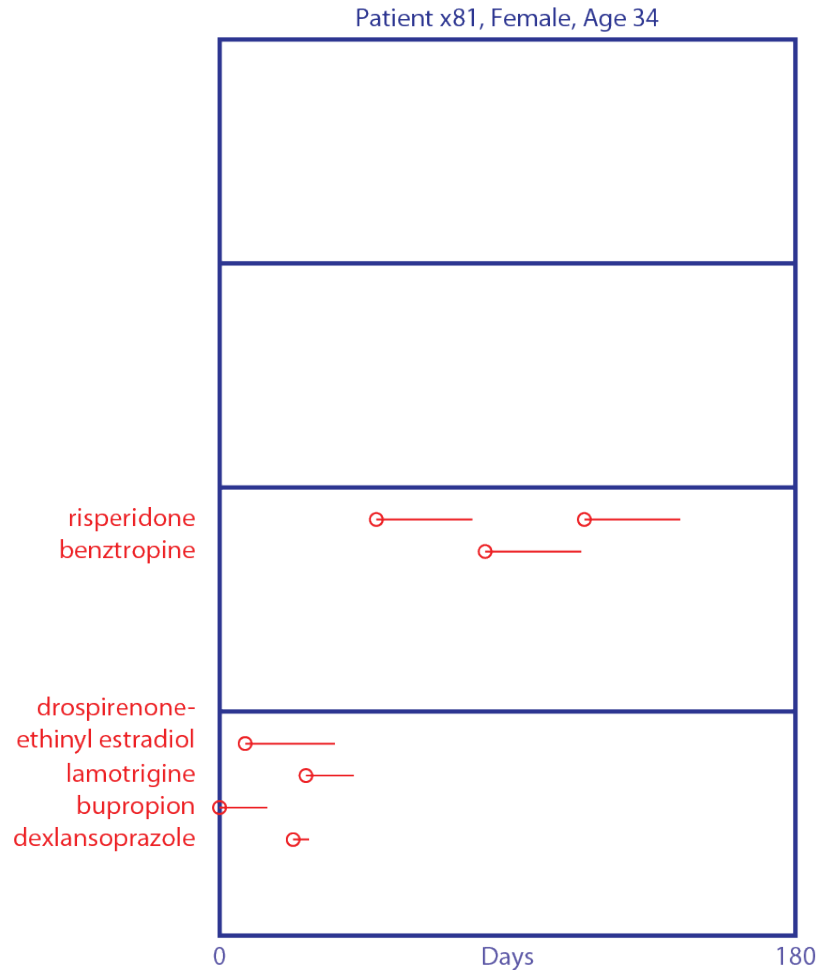


# Adherence Pattern Graphics

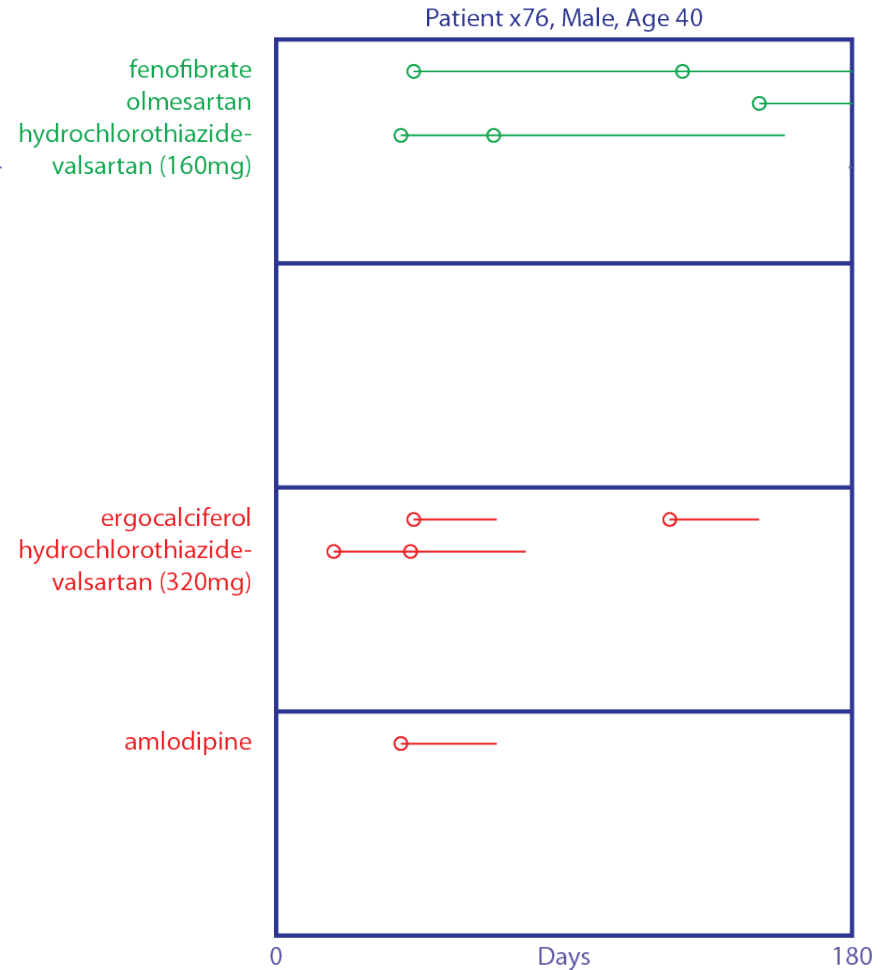




# Adherence Pattern Graphics



Low, End Gap



Mixed, End Gap

# Label Distributions

	Total		Outlier		Overpossession		End Gap		Sync Gap	
High	26,373	(53.5)	1,449	(5.5)	951	(3.6)	2,185	(8.3)	765	(2.9)
Moderate	4,384	(8.9)	35	(0.8)	5	(0.1)	1,442	(32.9)	225	(5.1)
Low	5,706	(11.6)	187	(3.3)	0	(0.0)	5,009	(87.8)	58	(1.0)
Mixed	12,843	(26.0)	NA		251	(2.0)	9,851	(76.7)	984	(7.7)
Total	49,306	(100.0)	1,671	(3.4)	1,207	(2.4)	18,487	(37.5)	2,032	(4.1)

- Among patients with average PDC score between 50-75, a mixed pattern is 3 times more likely than consistent moderate adherence
- Moderate pattern is usually due to temporary gaps
- Low pattern is usually due to non-persistence, including the low end of the mixed pattern

# Where do we go from here?

- Literature points to using multiple approaches for the best results. Is that feasible?
- Med Adherence is extremely important in some circumstances but less so in others
- Standard definitions and interpretations are critical but are closely connected to the data collection methodology

# Q&A



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Thank You!