

2026 eCQM Flow
eCQM Identifier: CMS156v14

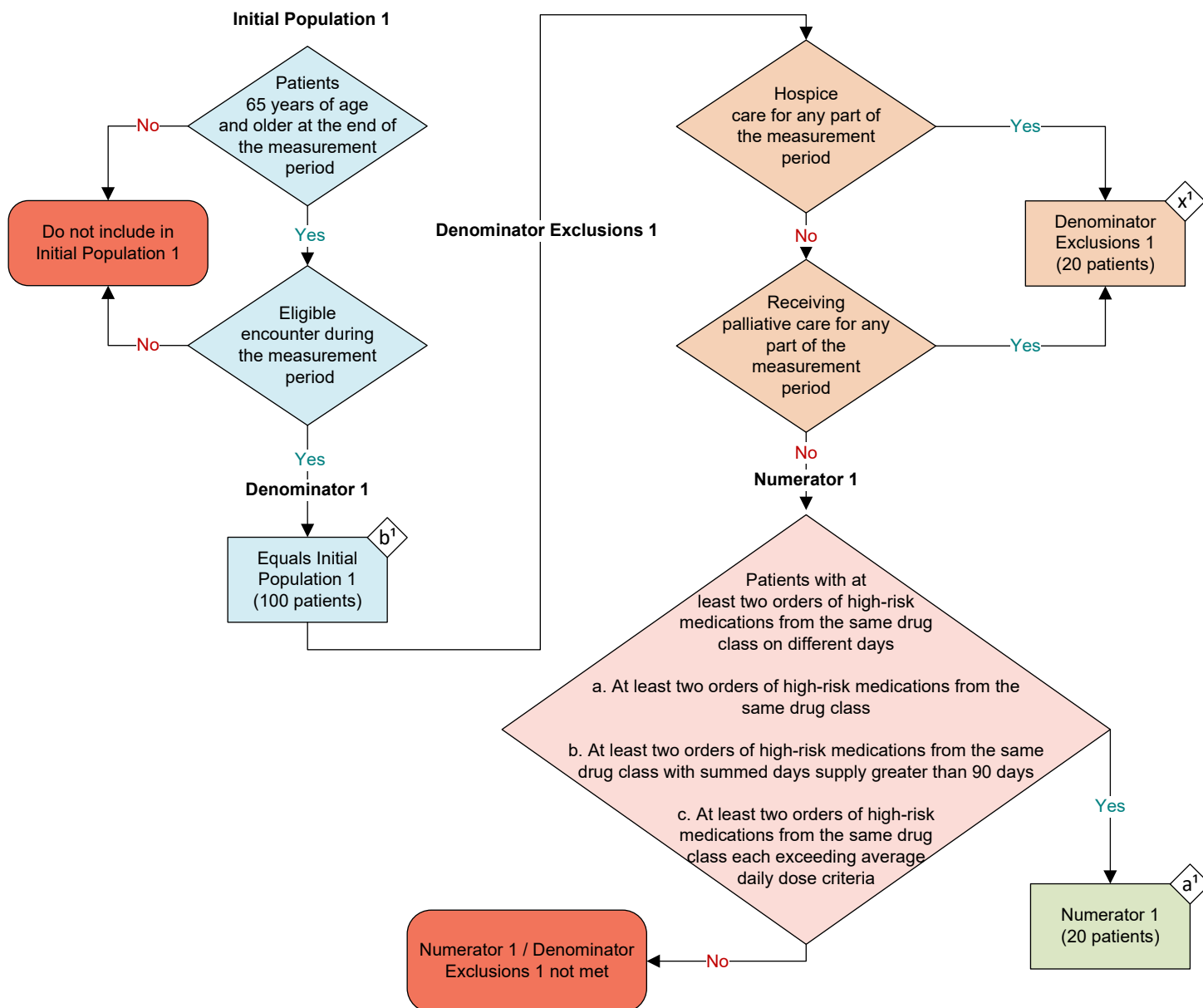
NOTE: This flow diagram represents an overview of population criteria requirements. **Refer to the eCQM specification for a complete list of data elements included in this measure and required for submission.**

Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults

Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were ordered at least two high-risk medications from the same drug class. Three rates are reported.

1. Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were ordered at least two high-risk medications from the same drug class
2. Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were ordered at least two high-risk medications from the same drug class, except for appropriate diagnoses
3. Total rate (the sum of the two numerators divided by the denominator, deduplicating for patients in both numerators)

This eCQM is a patient-based measure

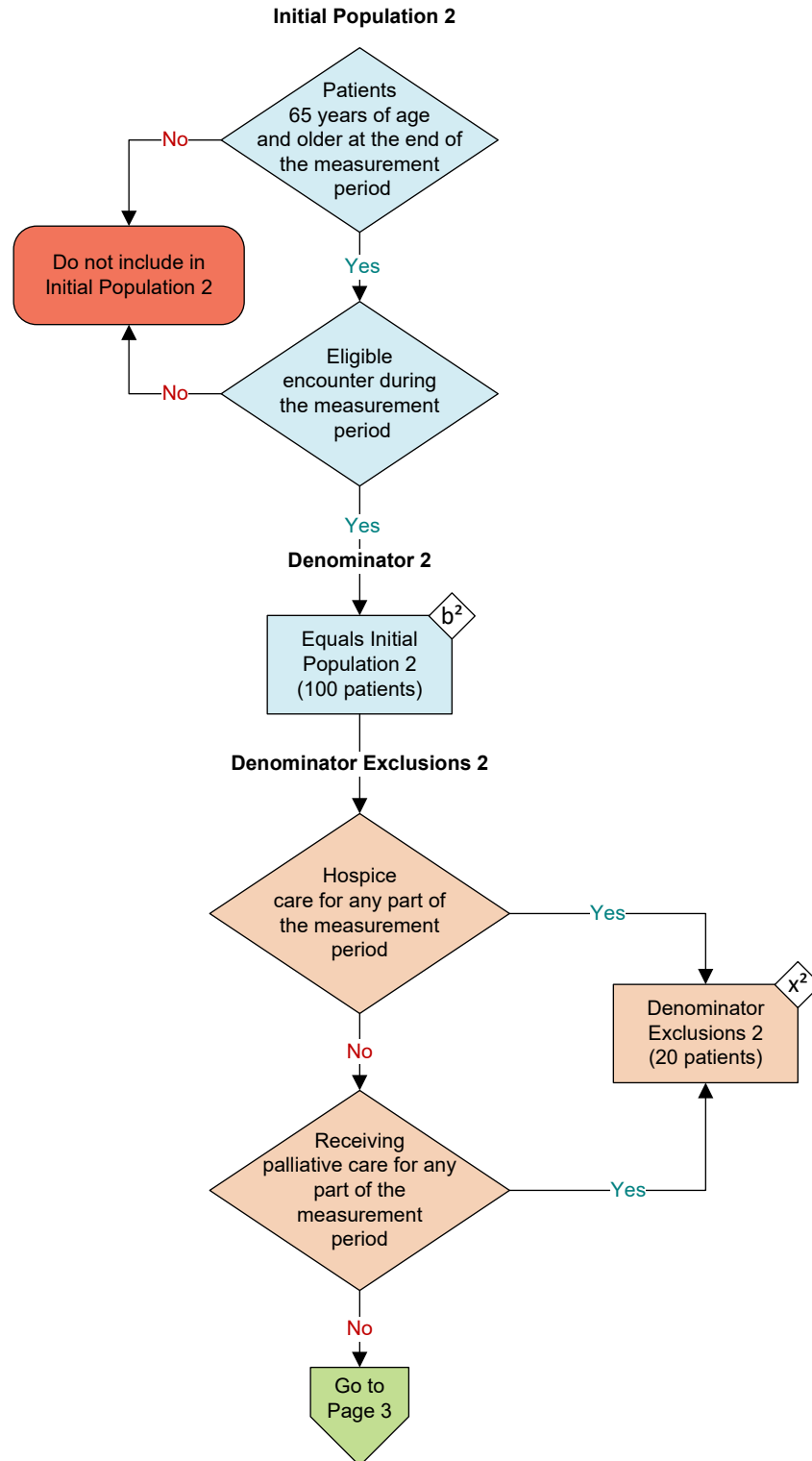


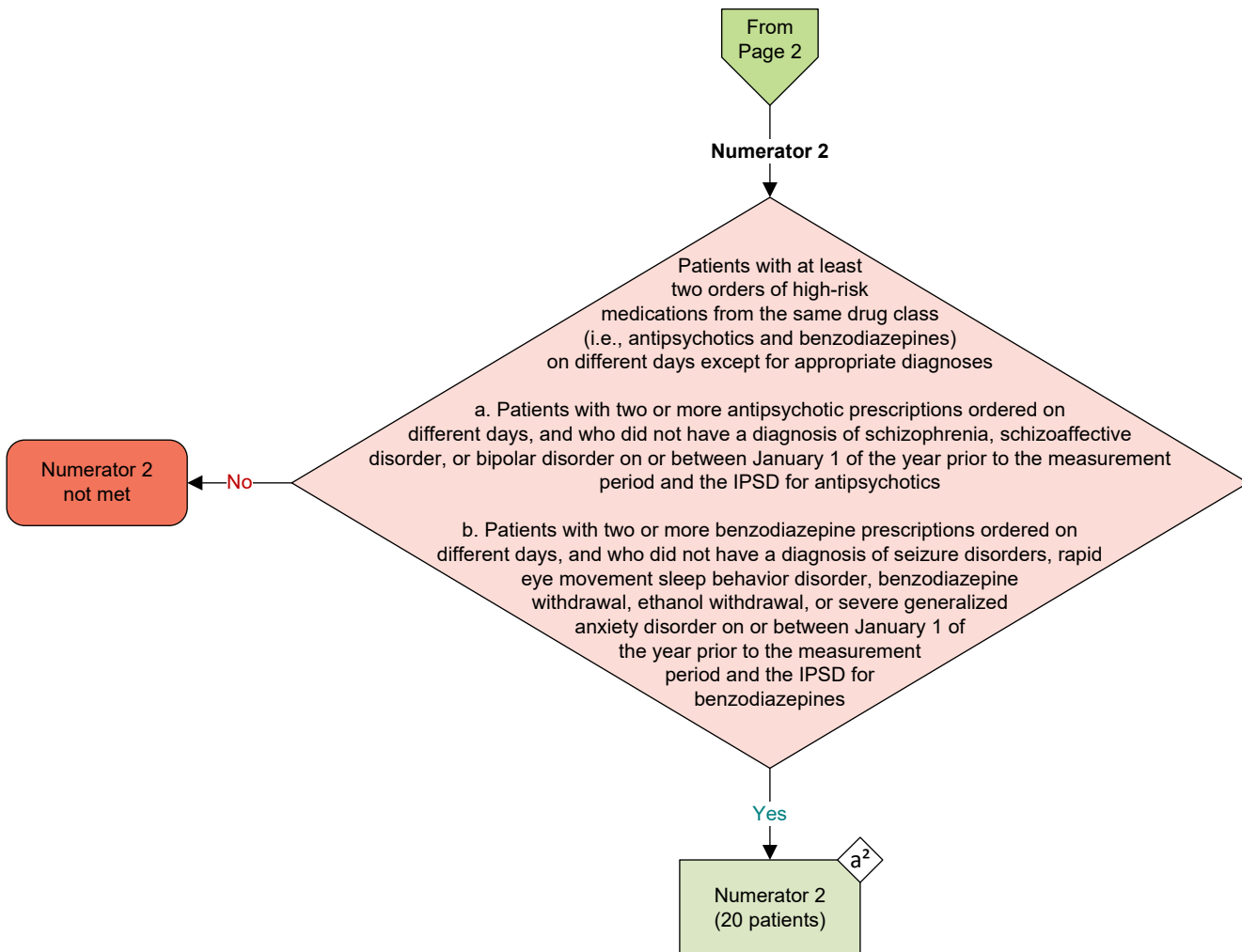
Performance Rate 1 =**

$$\frac{\text{Numerator (a}^1 = 20 \text{ patients)}}{\text{Denominator (b}^1 = 100 \text{ patients) - Denominator Exclusions 1 (x}^1 = 20 \text{ patients)}} = \frac{20}{80} = 25\%$$

****A lower score indicates better quality**

Sample Calculation: Population 1





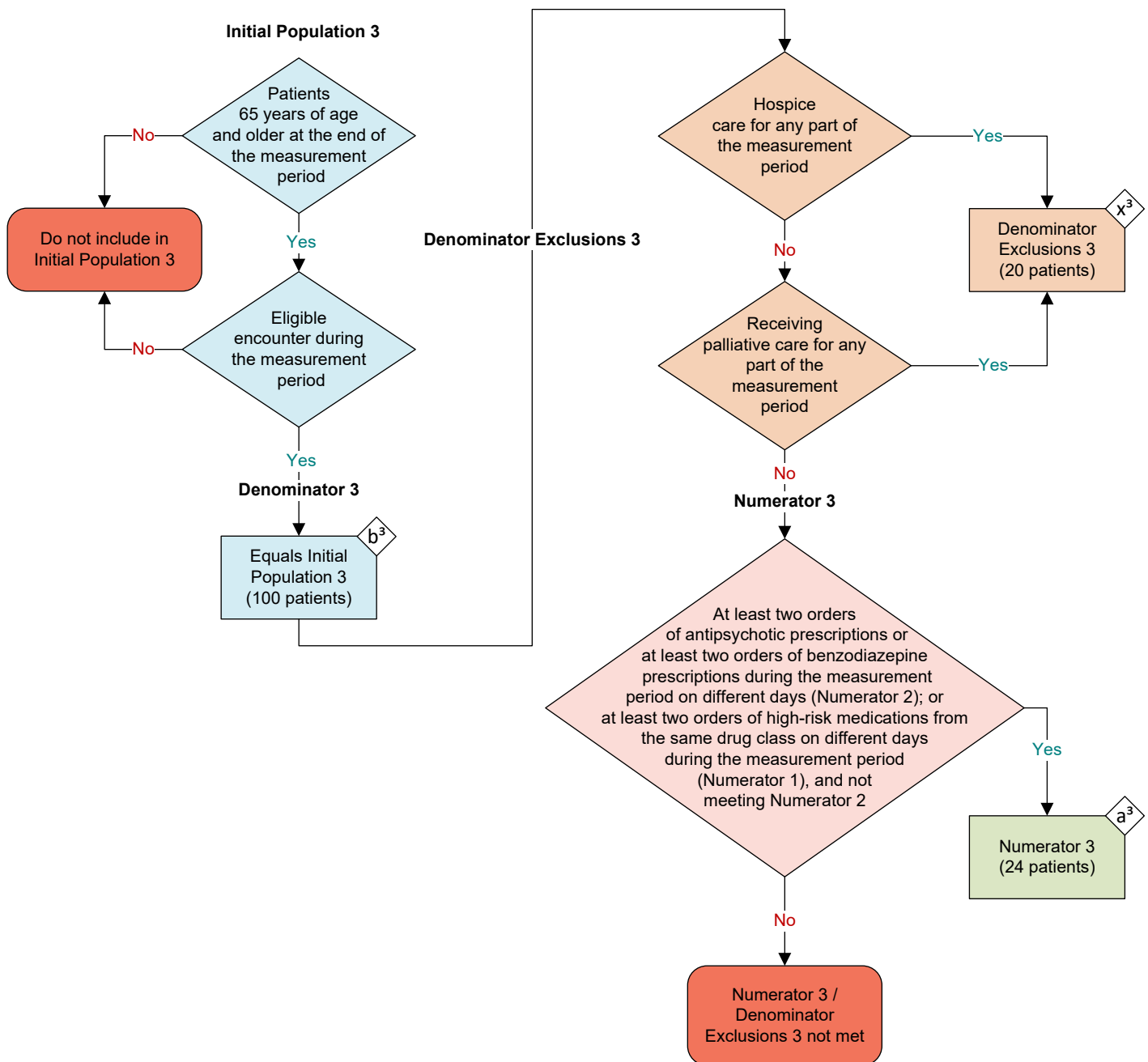
Sample Calculation: Population 2

Performance Rate 2** =

$$\frac{\text{Numerator 2 (a}^2 = 20 \text{ patients)}}{\text{Denominator 2 (b}^2 = 100 \text{ patients) - Denominator Exclusions 2 (x}^2 = 20 \text{ patients)}} = \frac{20}{80} = 25\%$$

**A lower score indicates better quality

Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults



Performance Rate 3** =

Sample Calculation: Population 3

$$\frac{\text{Numerator 3 } (a^3 = 20 \text{ patients})}{\text{Denominator 3 } (b^3 = 100 \text{ patients}) - \text{Denominator Exclusions 3 } (x^3 = 20 \text{ patients})} = \frac{24}{80} = 30\%$$

**A lower score indicates better quality

eCQM Identifier: CMS156v14**eCQM Title: Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults**

NOTE: This flow diagram represents an overview of population criteria requirements. Refer to the eCQM specification for a complete list of data elements included in this measure and required for submission.

Description: Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were ordered at least two high-risk medications from the same drug class. Three rates are reported.

1. Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were ordered at least two high-risk medications from the same drug class.
2. Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were ordered at least two high-risk medications from the same drug class, except for appropriate diagnoses.
3. Total rate (the sum of the two numerators divided by the denominator, deduplicating for patients in both numerators).

This eCQM is a patient-based measure.

eCQM Flow Narrative**Initial Population 1**

Identify the Initial Population 1, which includes patients 65 years of age and older at the end of the measurement period with an eligible encounter during the measurement period.

Denominator 1

The Denominator 1 equals the Initial Population 1. In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, Denominator 1 is equal to 100 patients.

Denominator Exclusions 1

The Denominator Exclusions 1 criteria identify a subset of the Denominator 1 population by excluding patients who are in hospice care for any part of the measurement period, or receiving palliative care for any part of the measurement period. In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, the Denominator Exclusions 1 are equal to 20 patients.

Numerator 1

The Numerator 1 criteria identify a subset of the Denominator 1 population (that did not meet the Denominator Exclusions 1 criteria) by including patients with at least two orders of high-risk medications from the same drug class on different days during the measurement period.

- a. At least two orders of high-risk medications from the same drug class.
- b. At least two orders of high-risk medications from the same drug class with summed days supply greater than 90 days.
- c. At least two orders of high-risk medications from the same drug class each exceeding average daily dose criteria.

In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, Numerator 1 is equal to 20 patients.

Sample Calculation: Population 1

A sample calculation is provided to help determine how the measure performance rate is derived. The measure performance rate is calculated by dividing the Numerator 1 (total equals 20 patients) by the difference between the Denominator 1 (total equals 100 patients) and the Denominator Exclusions 1 (total equals 20 patients), which is equal to a score of 25 percent. A lower score indicates better quality.

Initial Population 2

Continue by identifying the Initial Population 2, which includes patients 65 years of age and older at the end of the measurement period with an eligible encounter during the measurement period.

Denominator 2

The Denominator 2 equals the Initial Population 2. In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, Denominator 2 is equal to 100 patients.

Denominator Exclusions 2

The Denominator Exclusions 2 criteria identify a subset of the Denominator 2 population by excluding patients who are in hospice care for any part of the measurement period, or receiving palliative care for any part of the measurement period. In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, the Denominator Exclusions 2 are equal to 20 patients.

Numerator 2

The Numerator 2 criteria identify a subset of the Denominator 2 population (that did not meet the Denominator Exclusions 2 criteria) by including patients with at least two orders of high-risk medications from the same drug class (i.e., antipsychotics and benzodiazepines) on different days during the measurement period, except for appropriate diagnoses.

- a. Patients with two or more antipsychotic prescriptions ordered on different days, and who did not have a diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or bipolar disorder on or between January 1 of the year prior to the measurement period and the IPSP for antipsychotics.
- b. Patients with two or more benzodiazepine prescriptions ordered on different days, and who did not have a diagnosis of seizure disorders, rapid eye movement sleep behavior disorder, benzodiazepine withdrawal, ethanol withdrawal, or severe generalized anxiety disorder on or between January 1 of the year prior to the measurement period and the IPSP for benzodiazepines.

In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, Numerator 2 is equal to 20 patients.

Sample Calculation: Population 2

A sample calculation is provided to help determine how the measure performance rate is derived. The measure performance rate is calculated by dividing Numerator 2 (total equals 20 patients) by the difference between the Denominator 2 (total equals 100 patients) and the Denominator Exclusions 2 (total equals 20 patients), which is equal to a score of 25 percent. A lower score indicates better quality.

Initial Population 3

Continue by identifying the Initial Population 3, which includes patients 65 years of age and older at the end of the measurement period with an eligible encounter during the measurement period.

Denominator 3

The Denominator 3 equals the Initial Population 3. In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, Denominator 3 is equal to 100 patients.

Denominator Exclusions 3

The Denominator Exclusions 3 criteria identify a subset of the Denominator 3 population by excluding patients who are in hospice care for any part of the measurement period, or receiving palliative care for any part of the measurement period. In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, the Denominator Exclusions 3 are equal to 20 patients.

Numerator 3

The Numerator 3 criteria identify a subset of the Denominator 3 population (that did not meet the Denominator Exclusions 3 criteria) by including patients with at least two orders of high-risk medications from the same drug class (i.e., antipsychotics and benzodiazepines) on different days during the measurement period (Numerator 2), or by including patients with at least two orders of high-risk medications from the same drug class on different days during the measurement period (Numerator 1) who are not also meeting Numerator 2. In the sample calculation provided at the end of the eCQM flow, Numerator 3 is equal to 24 patients.

Sample Calculation: Population 3

A sample calculation is provided to help determine how the measure performance rate is derived. The measure performance rate is calculated by dividing the Numerator 3 (total equals 24 patients) by the difference between the Denominator 3 (total equals 100 patients) and the Denominator Exclusions 3 (total equals 20 patients), which is equal to a score of 30 percent. A lower score indicates better quality.