

# 2010 Benchmarks in Improving Medication Adherence



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# 2010 Benchmarks in Improving Medication Adherence

107 healthcare organizations describe efforts to improve medication adherence and compliance — a responsibility shared by patient, provider, payor, pharmacist, case manager and others.



*“(Greatest challenge is) Approaching the issue from the perspective of the health plan in supporting the physician relationship rather than as a direct care provider.”*

> **Health plan**



*“Medication management in the home setting, not just from the physician’s office, needs to be a reimbursable visit.”*

> **Geriatric care management company**



*“(Greatest challenge is) The patients who can’t afford their medications. We supply samples when possible and sign them up for patient assistance programs, but this is hardly a universal solution.”*

> **Hospital**



*“We are coordinating care with the prescribing primary care provider to increase best practice prescribing patterns.”*

> **Behavioral health organization**

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# About the Healthcare Intelligence Network

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The Healthcare Intelligence Network (HIN) is an electronic publishing company providing high-quality information on the business of healthcare. In one place, healthcare executives can receive exclusive, customized up-to-the-minute information in five key areas: the healthcare and managed care industry, hospital and health system management, health law and regulation, behavioral healthcare and long-term care.

## Executive Summary

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Of 1.8 billion prescriptions dispensed annually in the United States, only 50 percent are taken correctly by the patient, according to the World Health Organization. Beyond increasing risk of death, poor medication adherence is tied to as much as \$290 billion annually in increased medical costs and responsible for 33 to 69 percent of all medication-related hospital admissions in the United States, at a cost of about \$100 billion per year.

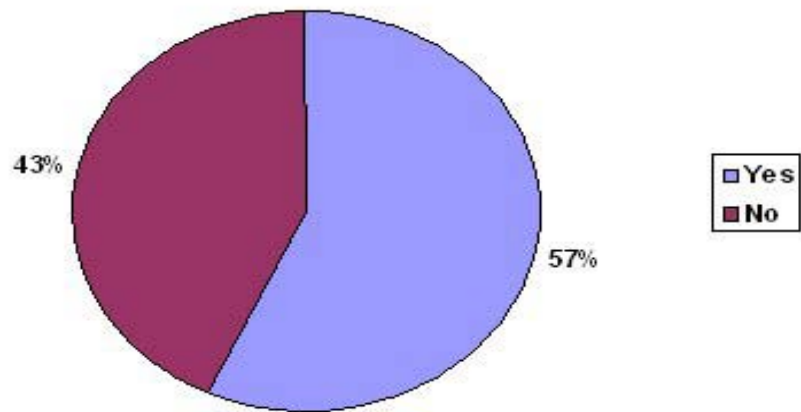
***Two-thirds of responding organizations have created a program to improve medication adherence.***

The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act signed into law in March 2010 contains important provisions related to medication adherence, including a series of grant and pilot programs in medication therapy management (MTM).

In its January 2010 Medication Adherence e-survey, the Healthcare Intelligence Network set out to capture the expanding focus and impact of medication adherence in the healthcare industry, from populations and health conditions targeted by medication adherence programs to the components of a successful medication adherence program. Through responses provided by 107 healthcare organizations to 23 multiple choice and open-ended questions, the survey results indicate that responsibility for medication adherence no longer solely rests with the patient but is shared by the provider, payor, pharmacist, case manager and others.

Do you plan to create a program to improve medication adherence within the next 12 months?

### 1:02: Planning Program in the Next 12 Months

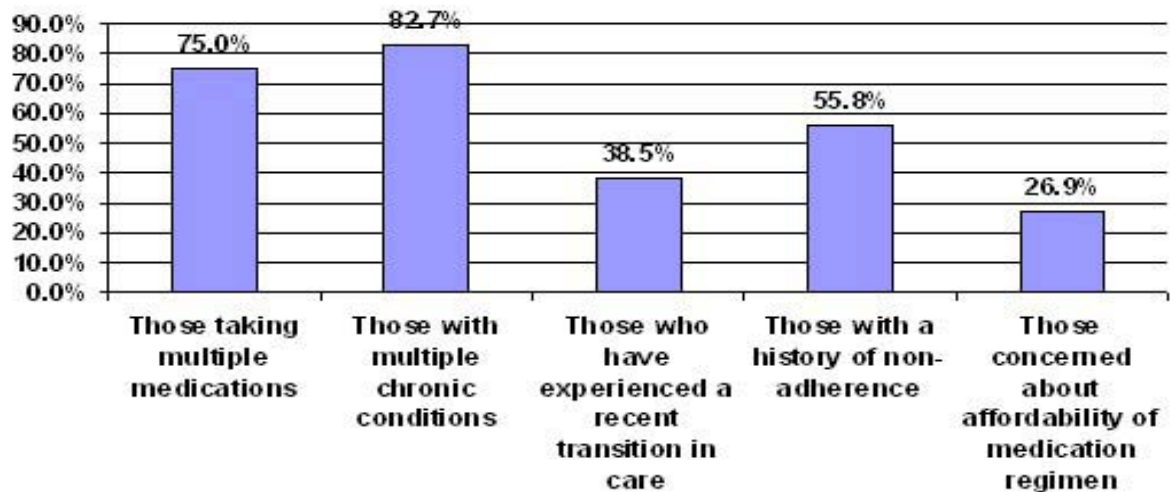


Source: HIN Medication Adherence Survey  
January 2010



Which populations are targeted by your medication adherence efforts?

### 1:03: Targeted Populations



Source: HIN Medication Adherence Survey  
January 2010



