



GA FLEX Quality Improvement Project Monthly Meeting

August 25, 2026



Agenda

- Welcome
- Prescription for Prevention
- SAMHSA Mental Health in Men
- Data in review
- Q&A/Wrap Up



GA FLEX Improvement Project Lead



Melody "Mel" Brown, MSM

Quality Program Manager

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Melody has over 45 years of health care experience, including varied roles at Alliant Health Solutions. She currently works on projects with hospitals, nursing homes, and physician practices concentrating on quality improvement strategies and implementation of interventions.

Prescription for Prevention





SAVE THE DATE

Education, Innovation, & Collaboration to Tackle Georgia's Opioid Crisis

September 18, 2026
8:30AM-4:30PM

Presidents Dining Room
Mercer University-Macon

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Physicians | Healthcare Professionals | Counselors | Social Workers | Advocates

Free Event
Register: garuralhealth.link/CWC

Prescription For Prevention: Opioid Misuse in Rural Georgia

September 18, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Mercer University – Macon Campus, Presidents Dining Room at the University Center

In partnership with **CWC Alliance**, Mercer University School of Medicine, and the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

This event is free.

Who Should Attend?

Physicians | Health Care Professionals | Counselors | Social Workers | Advocates



Conference Topics

- CWC Alliance's Opioid Crisis Response
Presented by: Carter Holder | Director of Operations, CWC Alliance
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment in Youth
Presented by: Justine Welsh, MD | Associate Professor, Vice Chair of Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Services, Director, Addiction Services, Emory Healthcare; Medical Director, Addiction Alliance of Georgia
- Stigma, Addiction, and the Impact of Loss on Family
Presented by: Cammie Wolf Rice, Founder & CEO, CWC Alliance; Staci James, Executive Director, Hope Coalition Movement
- Mental Wellness is Substance Use Prevention
Presented by: Phylcia Hancle, Youth Programming Director, CWC Alliance
- From Neurons to Neighborhoods: A Comprehensive Initiative to Address Fentanyl Use and Overdose in Rural Georgia
Presented by: Ali Gheidi, PhD, MSc, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Mercer University School of Medicine

Special Presentations:

- The Irony and Contradictions of Opioids and Effective Post-Op Alternatives
Presented by: Amy Baxter, MD, FAAP, FACEP, Inventor, Founder and CEO, Pain Care Labs
- Life Care Specialist Recognition Ceremony

Credits: 5 Available

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Medical Educational Council of Pensacola and Mercer University School of Medicine. MECOP is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Medical Educational Council of Pensacola designates this live activity for a maximum of 5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

<https://www.georgiaruralhealth.org/addiction-prevention-conference/>

SAMHSA Mental Health in Men


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[Home](#) » [About](#) » [News and Announcements](#) » [SAMHSA Blog](#) » From Midlife to Later Life: Addressing the Intersection of Aging, Substance Use, and Mental Health in Men


News and Announcements

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From Midlife to Later Life: Addressing the Intersection of Aging, Substance Use, and Mental Health in Men

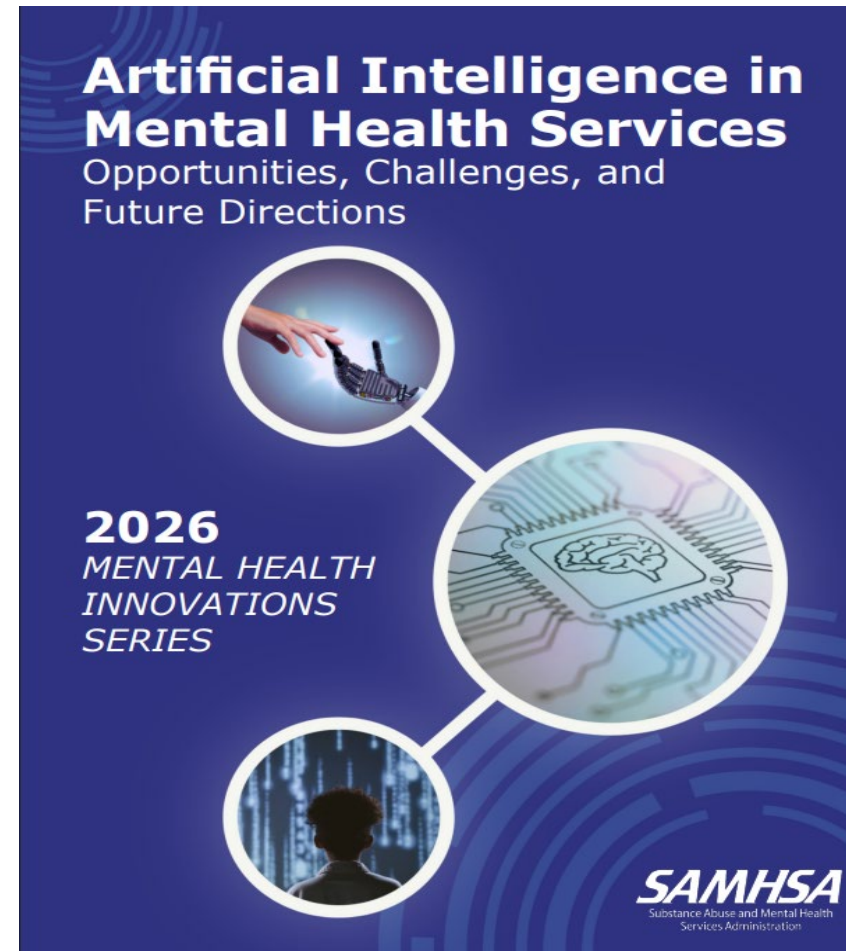
Date: August 18, 2026 | **Categories:** [Substance Use](#), [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\)](#), [Mental Health](#), [Treatment](#), [Recovery](#), [Prevention](#), [Men's Health](#)

By: [Kirk E. James, M.D., Physician, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment](#)

For many men, midlife and the years that follow bring significant change — retirement, loss of a spouse or close friend, chronic pain, and changing hormones. These transitions can heighten vulnerability to depression, anxiety, and substance misuse, yet the signs may be difficult to recognize or discuss. Bringing greater attention to these challenges can help men recognize when they may need support and understand that help is available and recovery is possible — at all ages.

https://www.samhsa.gov/blog/midlife-to-later-life-addressing-intersection-aging-substance-use-mental-health-men?utm_source=SAMHSA&utm_campaign=54facb5380-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_07_24_02_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d1a6ac65b0-445354966

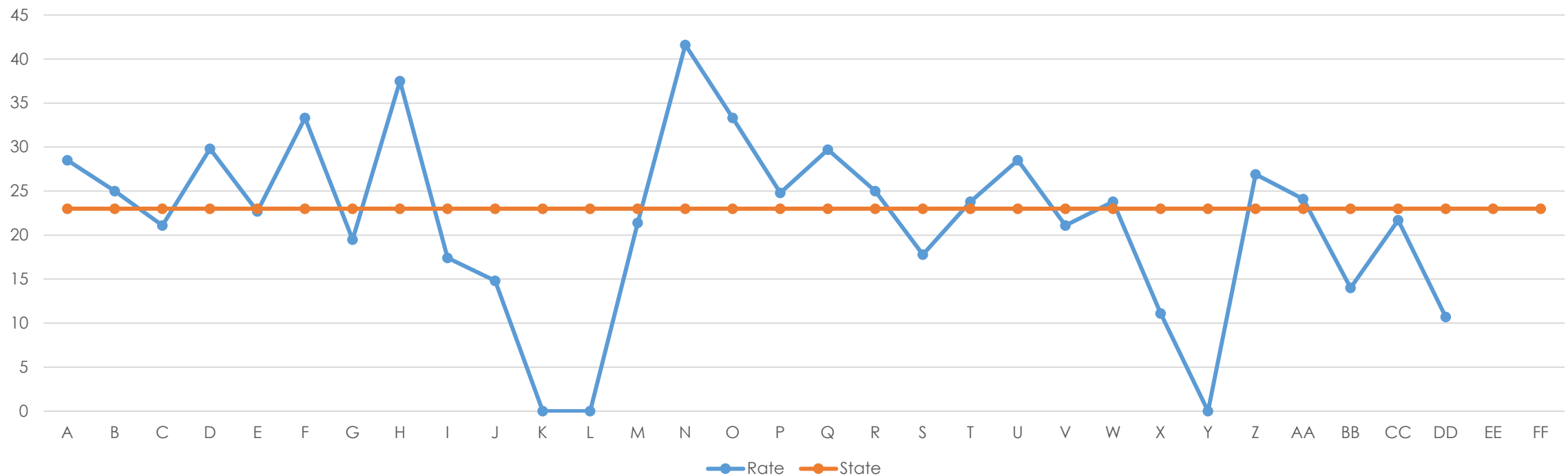
AI in Mental Health Services



<https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/ai-mental-health-services-pep26-01-003.pdf>

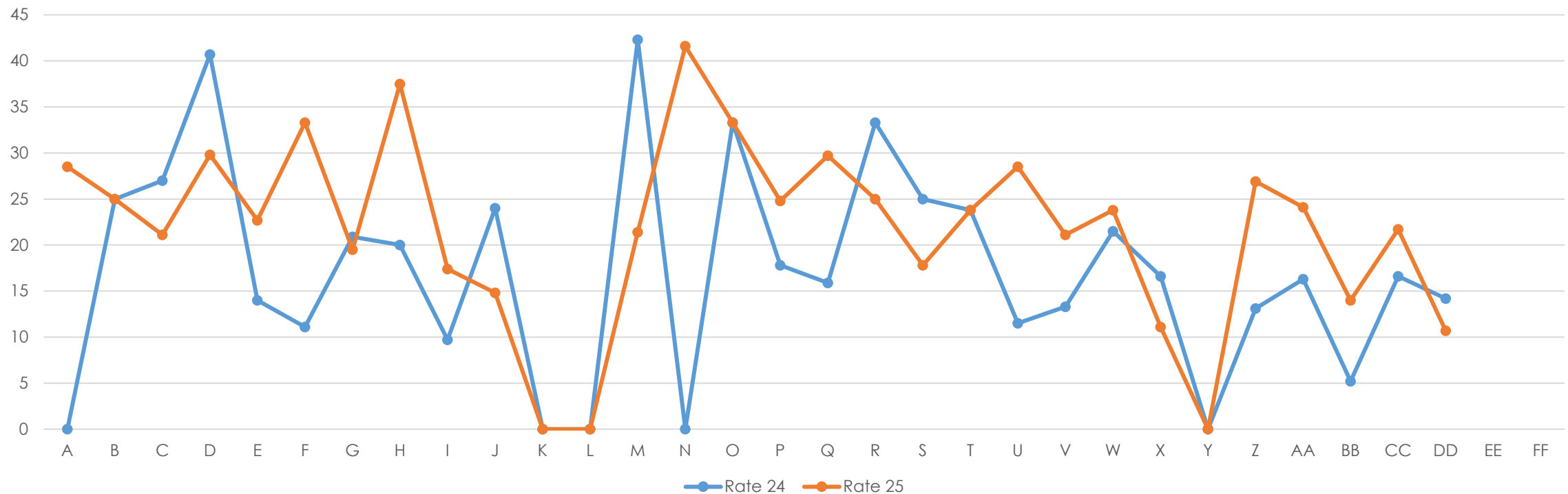
Safe Use of Opioids CY 2025

Safe Use of Opioids
CY 25
GA CAH's vs. State Rate



Safe Use of Opioids 2024 vs 2025

Safe Use of Opioids
Rate
2024 vs 2025



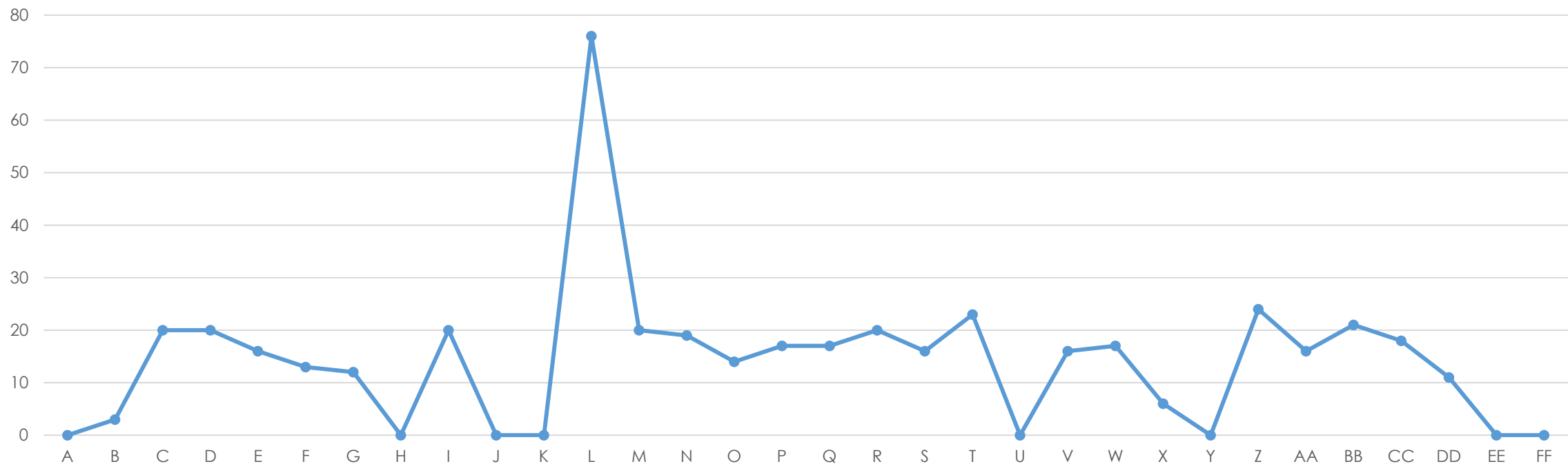
Composite Measure 5

Composite 5
Communication About Medications
Q424-Q325
Sometimes to Never (%)



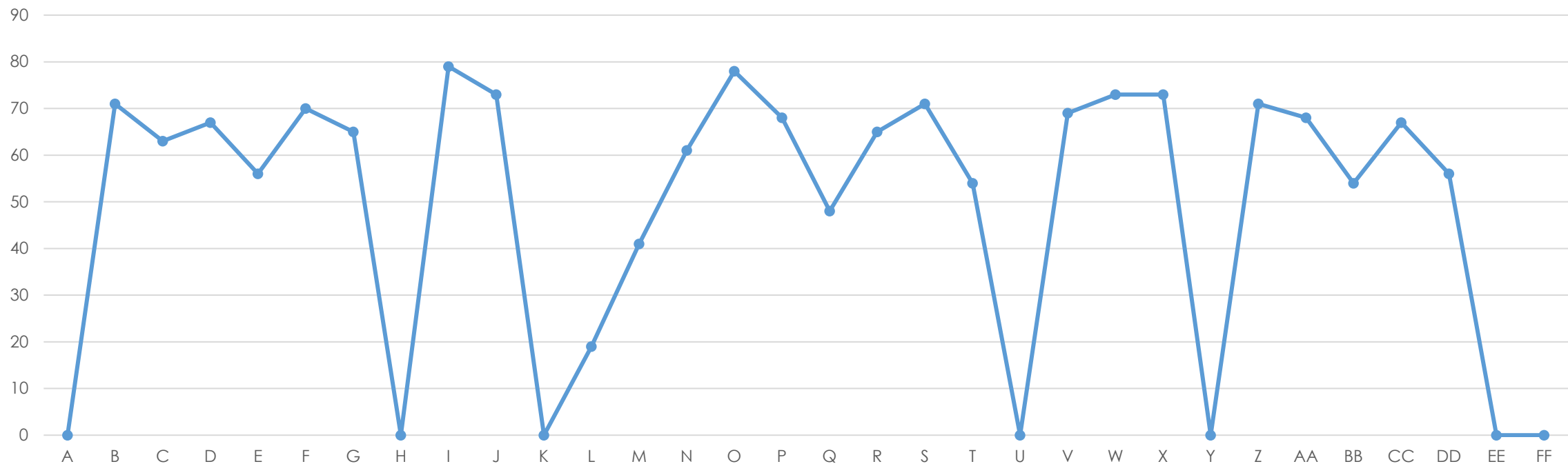
Composite Measure 5

Composite 5
Communication About Medications
Q424-Q325
Usually (%)



Composite Measure 5

Composite 5
Communication About Medications
Q424-Q325
Always (%)



Thank You

- GA State Office of Rural Health
- All that presented over the past year
- All GA CAH's for continued support



Find Treatment

<https://findtreatment.gov/>

 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

[En Español](#)



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

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Millions of Americans have mental and substance use disorders. Find treatment here.

Welcome to FindTreatment.gov, the confidential and anonymous resource for persons seeking treatment for mental and substance use disorders in the United States and its territories.



A^A



Find Treatment

Find a Treatment Facility

Enter your address, city, zip code, or facility name

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Help Resources

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Free and confidential support for people in distress, 24/7.

Call or text 988

National Helpline

Treatment referral and information, 24/7.

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Disaster Distress Helpline

Immediate crisis counseling related to disasters, 24/7.

1-800-985-5990

Project Timeline

Date	To-Do List
4 th Tuesday of each month 10 a.m. EST	☐ Monthly calls New cycle starts in September
September 22, 2026	☐ September Session



Email melody.brown@allianthealth.org to schedule a meeting.

Alliant Health Website and GA Flex Resources

<https://quality.allianthealth.org/ga-flex/>



GA Flex Resources



Hospital Resources

[Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project \(MBQIP\) 2025 Measure Core Set Information Guide – Version 2.2 – 3.1.2025](#)

[The Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance \(RQITA\) Resource Center](#)

Safe Use of Opioids

[Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing](#)

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

[Screening for SDOH Measure and the Screen Positive Rate Measure](#)

[FAQs Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Measures](#)

[Discharge Referral List](#)

[Improving the Collection of Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Data with ICD-10-CM Z Codes](#)

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Resources

1. The Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA) Resource Center: <https://www.telligen.com/rqita/>
2. Rural Health Information Hub website: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>
3. Rural Health Research Gateway: <https://www.ruralcenter.org/>



Questions?

