

## Premium Specialty: Neurology

Credentialed Specialties Include: Neurology, Neurology and Psychiatry, Neuromuscular Disease

### Patient Episode Cost

Use this document with the UnitedHealth Premium® Program Methodology document at [UnitedHealthPremium.UHC.com](https://UnitedHealthPremium.UHC.com). Please review all of the methodology documents to understand the entire Premium methodology.

We evaluate physicians in the Neurology Premium specialty using the [patient episode cost](#) measurement with the attributed condition-based episodes listed in the following chart.

Attribution methods determine which physicians and groups are responsible for care given to patients. Condition-based episodes are attributed using the cost method: the physician who was responsible for generating the highest percentage of services, based on normalized cost, in the episode. To make sure there was significant involvement, the attributed physician must be responsible for at least 50% of the total normalized cost of the episode.

Please view the [Attribution Methods](#) document to learn more.

### Condition-Based Episodes

Alzheimer's Disease

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Anxiety Disorder or Phobias

Autoimmune Rheumatologic Diseases, except Lupus\*

Brain Trauma

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Cerebral Vascular Disease

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

Conditional Exam

Congenital Disorders of Central Nervous System

Congenital Disorders of Peripheral Nerves\*

Diabetes\*

Epilepsy\*

Hearing Disorders, Bilateral

Hearing Disorders, Single Side

Hereditary and Degenerative Diseases of Central Nervous System, Other

Inflammation of Central Nervous System, Other

Inflammation of Cranial Nerves

Condition-Based Episodes
Inflammation of Non-Cranial Nerves, except Carpal Tunnel
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, Bilateral
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, Single Side
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Neck
Low Back Pain Syndrome
Malignant Neoplasm of Central Nervous System
Migraine Headache*
Mood Disorder, Depressed*
Multiple Sclerosis*
Neurological Diseases Signs and Symptoms
Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Central Nervous System
Obstructive Sleep Apnea
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Back
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Neck
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Unspecified
Other Disorders of Ear/Nose/Throat
Other Neurological Diseases
Parkinson's Disease*
Routine Exam
Visual Disturbances, Bilateral
Visual Disturbances, Single Side

\*Episodes for these conditions are excluded from patient episode cost measurement for patients whose pharmacy cost data isn't available.

## Important Notes

The information from the UnitedHealth Premium program is not an endorsement of a particular physician or health care professional's suitability for the health care needs of any particular member. UnitedHealthcare does not practice medicine nor provide health care services. Physicians are solely responsible for medical judgments and treatments supplied. A Premium Care Physician designation does not guarantee the quality of health care services members will receive from a physician and does not guarantee the outcome of any health care services members will receive. The fact that a physician doesn't have a Premium Care Physician designation doesn't mean the physician doesn't provide quality health care services. All physicians in the UnitedHealthcare Network have met certain minimum credentialing requirements. Regardless of whether a physician has received a Premium Care Physician designation, members have access to all physicians in the UnitedHealthcare Network, as further described under the member's benefit plan. There are various reasons why a physician may not be designated as a Premium Care Physician. A physician may not receive a Premium Care designation because that physician has not been evaluated for a Premium Care designation. This occurs when a physician does not practice in a specialty that is evaluated by the Premium program, or when a physician's evaluation is in process. It also occurs when a physician does not have enough health plan claims data to be evaluated, but it is not an indicator of the total number of patients treated by the physician or the number of procedures performed by the physician. Rather, it reflects the statistical requirements of the Premium program, which includes only health plan claims associated with specific Premium program measures and relevant to the physician's specialty. In some cases, there may not be enough data to complete the analytic process from a statistical standpoint. UnitedHealthcare informs members that designations are intended only as a guide when choosing a physician and should not be the sole factor in selecting a physician. As with all programs that evaluate performance based on analysis of a sample, there is a risk of error. There is a risk of error in the claims data used in the evaluation, the calculations used in the evaluation, and the way the Premium program determined that an individual physician was responsible for the treatment of the patient's condition. Physicians have the opportunity to review this data and submit a reconsideration request. UnitedHealthcare uses statistical testing to compare a physician's results to expected or normative results. There is a risk of error in statistical tests when applied to the data and a result based on statistical testing is not a guarantee of correct inference or classification. We inform members that it is important that they consider many factors and information when selecting a physician. We also inform our members that they may wish to discuss designations with a physician before choosing him or her, or confer with their current physician for advice on selecting other physicians. The information contained in this document is subject to change.

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