

Premium Specialty: Pulmonology

Credentialed Specialties Include: Pulmonary Medicine

Patient Episode Cost

Use this document with the UnitedHealth Premium® Program Methodology document at UnitedHealthPremium.UHC.com. Please review all of the methodology documents to understand the entire Premium methodology.

We evaluate physicians in the Pulmonology 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

Acute Bronchitis

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

AIDS*

Allergic Rhinitis

Asthma*

Bacterial Lung Infections

Cardiomyopathy

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*

Chronic Sinusitis

Conditional Exam

Congestive Heart Failure

Cystic Fibrosis*

Embolism and Thrombosis of Veins*

Fungal and Other Pneumonia*

Heart Failure, Diastolic

Inflammation of Esophagus

Malignant Neoplasm of Pulmonary System

Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Pulmonary System

| Condition-Based Episodes |
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| Obesity |
| Obstructive Sleep Apnea |
| Occupational and Environmental Pulmonary Diseases |
| Other Disorders of Ear/Nose/Throat |
| Other Inflammatory Lung Diseases* |
| Other Pulmonary Disorders |
| Other Sleep Disorders* |
| Pulmonary Embolism* |
| Pulmonary Heart Disease* |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis* |
| Pulmonology Diseases Signs and Symptoms |
| Routine Exam |
| Viral Pneumonia |

*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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