

UnitedHealth Premium Efficiency and cost of care measurement by peer specialty



Additional UnitedHealth Premium® methodology documents are located on unitedhealthpremium.uhc.com.

UnitedHealth Premium uses two different measurements to separately evaluate efficiency of care and cost of care:

- Patient annual cost
- Patient episode cost

Premium uses the measurement applicable to the physician's peer specialty. For specialties measured using patient annual cost, Premium may use the patient episode cost measurement when the physician does not have enough patients attributed for patient annual cost.

Peer specialty	Patient annual cost	Patient episode cost
Allergy	✓	
Cardiology	✓	
Ear, nose, and throat		✓
Endocrinology	✓	
Family medicine	✓	
Gastroenterology		✓
General surgery		✓
Internal medicine	✓	
Nephrology	✓	
Neurological surgery		✓
Neurology	✓	
Obstetrics and gynecology	✓	
Orthopedic surgery		✓
Pediatrics	✓	
Pulmonology	✓	
Rheumatology	✓	
Urology		✓

Important notes about UnitedHealth Premium

The information from UnitedHealth Premium is not an endorsement of a particular physician or health care professional's suitability for the health care needs of any member. UnitedHealthcare does not practice medicine nor provide health care services. Physicians are solely responsible for medical judgments and treatments.

A Premium Care Physician designation does not guarantee the quality or the outcome of any health care services members receive. The fact that a physician does not have a Premium Care Physician designation does not mean the physician does not 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 described in 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 designation because that physician has not been evaluated. This occurs when a physician does not practice in a specialty or market that is evaluated by Premium, or the physician's evaluation is in process. This also occurs when there are not enough measures, patients, and/or episodes attributed to the physician for evaluation. This is not an indicator of the total number of patients treated by the physician, or the number of procedures performed by the physician.

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. Members are encouraged to discuss designations with a physician before choosing them or consult with their current physician(s) for advice on selecting other physicians.

As with all programs that evaluate performance based on evaluation of a sample, there is a risk of error. There is a risk of error in the claims data used and in the way patient care is attributed to physicians. UnitedHealth Premium uses statistical testing to compare a physician's performance to benchmarks. 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. Physicians have the opportunity to review the data and evaluation results and may submit requests for changes and/or corrections.

The information contained in this document is subject to change.

Learn more

UnitedHealth Premium | unitedhealthpremium.uhc.com

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