UnitedHealthcare®

Premium Specialty: Rheumatology

Credentialed Specialties include: Rheumatology

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 quality and cost efficiency using national standardized measures and attribution methods. Quality measures are attributed to physicians in applicable specialties. The following chart lists the measures we use to evaluate physicians in the rheumatology Premium specialty by condition or procedure. These measures apply to our UnitedHealthcare commercial, UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan patient populations, unless otherwise noted.

Please view the Quality Evaluation Example and Attribution Methods documents to learn more.

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Back Pain	Patient(s) with uncomplicated low back pain that did not have imaging studies	Patient with uncomplicated low back pain did not have imaging studies	Acute Condition Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient with a lumbar spine MRI and low back pain diagnosis had antecedent conservative therapy	Patient with a lumbar spine MRI and low back pain diagnosis had antecedent conservative therapy	Diagnostic Care	Ordering	Contact National Quality Forum or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Carotid Imaging for Syncope	Patient(s) with syncope that had a carotid imaging test.	Patient with syncope did not have a carotid imaging test	Diagnostic Care	Ordering	Synopsis
Cardiac imaging for Preoperative Risk Assessment for Non-Cardiac; Low-Risk Surgery	Patients of low-risk who did not receive cardiac imaging 30 days prior to a non-cardiac, low-risk surgery	Patient of low-risk did not have cardiac imaging 30 days prior to a non-cardiac, low-risk surgery	Diagnostic Care	Ordering	Contact National Quality Forum or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines	Patient(s) who did not have concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines	Patient did not have prescription opioid and benzodiazepine medications concurrently dispensed	Patient Safety Care	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum or Pharmacy Quality Alliance
Head Imaging for Syncope	Patient(s) with syncope that had a head imaging test	Patient with syncope did not have a head imaging test	Diagnostic Care	Ordering	Synopsis
Head Imaging for Uncomplicated Headache	Patient(s) with a headache that had a head imaging test	Patient with a headache did not have a head imaging test	Diagnostic Care	Ordering	Synopsis
Medication Safety Monitoring	Elderly patient(s) with dementia who did not take an antipsychotic; benzodiazepine; tricyclic antidepressant; H2 receptor antagonist; nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic or anticholinergic agent after the earliest record of dementia	Patient with dementia did not have an antipsychotic, benzodiazepine, tricyclic antidepressant, H2 receptor antagonist, nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic or anticholinergic agent dispensed after the earliest record of dementia	Patient Safety Care	Patient or Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Elderly patients who had an accidental fall or hip fracture who did not take an anticonvulsant; nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic; SSRI; antiemetic; antipsychotic; benzodiazepine; or tricyclic antidepressant after the incident	Patient with an accidental fall or hip fracture did not have an anticonvulsant, nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic, SSRI, antipsychotic, benzodiazepine, or tricyclic antidepressant medication dispensed after the incident	Patient Safety Care	Patient or Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Elderly patients with chronic kidney disease who did not take a Cox-2 selective or nonaspirin nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) after the earliest record of chronic kidney disease	Patient with chronic kidney disease did not have a Cox-2 selective or nonaspirin nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) dispensed after the earliest record of chronic kidney disease	Patient Safety Care	Patient or Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance
Osteoporosis Management	Patient(s) compliant with prescribed oral bisphosphonate (minimum compliance 80%)	Patient was 80% or more compliant with prescribed oral bisphosphonate medication	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Synopsis

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Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Osteoporosis Management	Women 67 - 85 years of age who were treated or tested for osteoporosis within six months of a fracture	Patient was treated or tested for osteoporosis within six months of a fracture	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance
Rheumatoid Arthritis	Patient(s) compliant with prescribed methotrexate (minimum compliance 80%)	Patient was 80% or more compliant with prescribed methotrexate medication	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) compliant with prescribed hydroxychloroquine (minimum compliance 80%).	Patient was 80% or more compliant with prescribed hydroxychloroquine medication	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) compliant with prescribed subcutaneous tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (minimum compliance 80%)	Patient was 80% or more compliant with prescribed subcutaneous tumor necrosis factor inhibitor medication	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) taking methotrexate sulfasalazine or leflunomide that had serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) or aspartate aminotransferase (AST) test in last 3 reported months	Patient taking methotrexate sulfasalazine or leflunomide medication had a serum ALT or AST test	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) taking methotrexate, sulfasalazine, gold, or leflunamide that had a complete blood count (CBC) in last 3 reported months	Patient taking methotrexate, sulfasalazine, gold, or leflunamide medication had a complete blood count (CBC) test	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) who had a prescription dispensed for a disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) during the report period	Patient had a disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) dispensed	Chronic Disease Care	Patient	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance
Use of High-Risk Medications in the Elderly	Patient(s) 66 years of age and older who did not receive two or more of the same high-risk medication in the last 12 reported months	Patient did not have two or more of the same high-risk medications dispensed	Patient Safety Care	Patient or Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patients 66 years of age and older who did not receive one or more high-risk medications in the elderly in the last 12 reported months	Patient did not have a high-risk medication dispensed	Patient Safety Care	Patient or Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance

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Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Use of Opioid Medications	Patient(s) 18 years and older who did not have an average morphine equivalent dose (med) > 120 mg/day during the treatment period	Patient did not have an average morphine equivalent dose greater than 120 mg/day	Patient Safety Care	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum or National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient did not have opioid medications from four or more different prescribers dispensed	Patient did not have opioid medications from four or more different prescribers dispensed	Patient Safety Care	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient did not have opioid medication for 15 or more days during the first 30 days following initial opioid treatment	Patient did not have access to opiod medication for 15 or more days during the first 30 days following first opiod treatment initiation	Patient Safety Care	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient did not have opioid medication for 31 or more days during the first 62 days following initial opioid treatment	Patient did not have access to opiod medication for 31 or more days during the first 62 days following first opiod treatment initiation	Patient Safety Care	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance