Premium Specialty: Ear, Nose and Throat

Credentialed Specialties Include: Laryngology, Otolaryngology, Otology, Pediatric Otolaryngology, Rhinology, Surgery Head and Neck

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 using national standardized measures. Quality measures are attributed to physicians in applicable specialties. The following chart lists the safe, timely, and effective quality measures we use to evaluate physicians in the Ear, Nose and Throat 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 <u>Quality Performance Evaluation Example for Safe, Timely and Effective Quality Measures</u> and <u>Attribution Methods</u> documents to learn more.

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Acute Otitis Externa	Patient(s) 2 years of age and older with acute otitis externa who were not prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy	Patient with acute otitis externa did not have a systemic antimicrobial medication dispensed	Low Value Care	Rendering	Synopsis
Acute Sinusitis	Patient(s) treated with an antibiotic for acute sinusitis that received a first line antibiotic	The first antibiotic medication patient received for acute sinusitis was a first line antibiotic medication	Guideline Concordance: Acute Care	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Adenoidectomy	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Adenoidectomy and Tonsillectomy	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Adenoidectomy and Tonsillectomy	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Adenoidectomy and Tonsillectomy - 12 Years and Under	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) 3 months-17 years of age with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) that did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Patient with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection	Patient(s) 18-64 years of age with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) that did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Patient with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient(s) 65 years of age and older with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) that did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Patient with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis	Patient(s) 3 months to 17 years of age with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis that did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Patient with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient(s) 18-64 years of age with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis that did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Patient with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis	Patient(s) 65 years of age and older with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis that did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Patient with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis did not have a prescription for an antibiotic on or within three days after the initiating visit	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient(s) did not have concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines	Patient did not have prescription opioid and benzodiazepine medications concurrently dispensed	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Endoscopy - Direct	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 90 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 90 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 90 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 90 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 90 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 90 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Medication Safety Monitoring	Older adult patients with dementia who did not use an antipsychotic, benzodiazepine, tricyclic antidepressant, nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic or anticholinergic agent after the earliest record of dementia	Patient with dementia did not have an antipsychotic, benzodiazepine, tricyclic antidepressant, nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic or anticholinergic agent dispensed after the earliest record of dementia	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum
Myringotomy	Patient(s) with post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient had a post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Myringotomy	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nasal Ablation	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nacal Ablation Submussed	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nasal Ablation - Submucosal	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nasal Endoscopy with CSF Leak Repair	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Nasal Endoscopy with CSF Leak Repair	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nasal Endoscopy with Dilation	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nasal Endoscopy with Treatment	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nasal Vestibule Repair	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Nasal Vestibule Repair	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) age 18-64 years who were opioid-naive and were not prescribed access to opioid medication for 15 or more days during the first 30 days following first opioid treatment initiation	Patient did not have opioid medication for 15 or more days during the first 30 days following initial opioid treatment	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Risk Of Continued Opioid	Patient(s) age 65 years and older who were opioid-naive and were not prescribed access to opioid medication for 15 or more days during the first 30 days following first opioid treatment initiation	Patient did not have opioid medication for 15 or more days during the first 30 days following initial opioid treatment	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Use	Patient(s) age 18-64 years who were opioid-naive and were not prescribed access to opioid medication for 31 or more days during the first 62 days following first opioid treatment initiation	Patient did not have opioid medication for 31 or more days during the first 62 days following initial opioid treatment	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient(s) age 65 years and older who were opioid-naive and were not prescribed access to opioid medication for 31 or more days during the first 62 days following first opioid treatment initiation	Patient did not have opioid medication for 31 or more days during the first 62 days following initial opioid treatment	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Septoplasty	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Thyroidectomy	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Tonsillectomy	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) 1-18 years of age that had a tonsillectomy and met clinical criteria for this procedure	Patient with tonsillectomy had three or more inpatient or outpatient visits with a diagnosis of acute pharyngitis, acute tonsillitis, chronic tonsillitis and adenoiditis, or chronic pharyngitis. See measure synopsis for additional clinical criteria	Low Value Care	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Tonsillectomy - 12 Years and Under	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Turbinate Excision	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Turbinate Excision	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) with post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient had a post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Tympanic Membrane Repair	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure between 181 to 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 181 and 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Tympanoplasty	Patient(s) with post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient had a post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Tympanoplasty	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) with post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient had a post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Tympanostomy - with Anesthesia	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) with post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient had a post-procedure confirmatory hearing test within 365 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
Tympanostomy - without Anesthesia	Patient(s) without post-procedure complications within 30 days of the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a complication related to the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis
	Patient(s) without redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single- side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have a redo procedure within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults		Patient did not have two or more of the same high-risk medications from the same drug class dispensed	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
		Patient did not have two or more of the same high-risk medications except for the appropriate diagnosis dispensed	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	average morphine milligram equivalent	Patient did not have an average morphine equivalent dose >= 90 mg/day	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Use Of Opioids From Multiple Providers	fill opioid prescriptions from four or	Patient did not have opioid medications from four or more different prescribers dispensed	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance

## Important Notes

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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. United Healthcare 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 United Healthcare 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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