

Peer Specialty: General Surgery		
Patient Episode Cost		
UnitedHealth Premium® methodology documents are located on <a href="https://unitedhealthpremium.uhc.com">unitedhealthpremium.uhc.com</a> .		
Procedure-based episodes	Claims grouping time frame	
	Days before	Days after
Appendectomy, without Rupture	0	30
Cholecystectomy, Laparoscopic	0	42
Cholecystectomy, Open	0	42
Colonoscopy, Diagnostic	5	10
Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy with Treatment	14	30
Lower GI Removal	14	42
Repair, Abdominal Hernia (Incisional, Ventral or Umbilical), Initial Procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Repair, Abdominal Hernia (Incisional, Ventral or Umbilical), Revision (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Repair, Inguinal Hernia (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	30
Thyroidectomy - Bilateral	14	42
Thyroidectomy - Single Side	14	42

Episodes for procedures are excluded when they are a redo of a prior procedure, and/or include services that are included in a cancer-related condition-based episode.

## **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.**