

## Premium Specialty: Neurology

Credentialed Specialties Include: Neurology, Neurology and Psychiatry, Neuromuscular Disease

### Patient Total Cost

Use this document with the UnitedHealth Premium® Program Methodology document at [UnitedHealthPremium.UHC.com](https://UnitedHealthPremium.UHC.com). Please review all of the methodology documents to understand the entire Premium methodology.

We evaluate physicians in the Neurology Premium specialty using the [patient total cost](#) measurement using the condition-based episodes listed in the following chart.

Attribution methods determine which physicians are responsible for giving care to patients. Patient total cost measurement uses the patient attribution method. Please view the [Attribution Methods](#) document to learn more.

We use two methods to determine if we should include costs from an eligible treatment episode. These methods depend on the condition:

- **Always include:** Costs from an eligible treatment episode for an attributed patient, regardless of the attributed physician's level of involvement in the treatment of the patient's condition.
- **Include if involved:** Costs from an eligible treatment episode for an attributed patient if the attributed physician is responsible for at least 30% of the costs.

When the physician doesn't have a sufficient number of patients attributed, the Premium program uses the [patient episode cost](#) measurement.

Condition	Always Include	Include if Involved
Alzheimer's Disease	X	
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	X	
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, with Surgery	X	
Anxiety Disorder or Phobias		X
Autoimmune Rheumatologic Diseases, except Lupus*		X
Brain Trauma		X
Brain Trauma, with Surgery		X
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome		X
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, with Surgery		X
Cerebral Vascular Disease	X	
Cerebral Vascular Disease, with Surgery	X	
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome		X
Conditional Exam		X
Congenital Disorders of Central Nervous System		X
Congenital Disorders of Central Nervous System, with Surgery		X
Congenital Disorders of Peripheral Nerves*		X
Congenital Disorders of Peripheral Nerves, with Surgery*		X
Diabetes*		X

Condition	Always Include	Include if Involved
Diabetes, with Surgery*		X
Epilepsy*	X	
Epilepsy, with Surgery*	X	
Hearing Disorders, Single Side		X
Hearing Disorders, with Surgery, unilateral		X
Inflammation of Central Nervous System, Other	X	
Inflammation of Central Nervous System, Other, with Surgery	X	
Inflammation of Cranial Nerves	X	
Inflammation of Cranial Nerves, with Surgery	X	
Inflammation of Non-Cranial Nerves, except Carpal Tunnel	X	
Inflammation of Non-Cranial Nerves, except Carpal Tunnel, with Surgery	X	
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, Single Side		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, with Surgery, unilateral		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Neck		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Neck, with Surgery		X
Low Back Pain Syndrome		X
Malignant Neoplasm of Central Nervous System	X	
Migraine Headache*	X	
Mood Disorder, Depressed*		X
Neurological Diseases Signs and Symptoms	X	
Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Central Nervous System		X
Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Central Nervous System, with Surgery		X
Obstructive Sleep Apnea		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Back		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Neck		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Neck, with Surgery		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Unspecified		X
Other Disorders of Ear/Nose/Throat		X
Other Disorders of Ear/Nose/Throat, with Surgery		X
Other Neurological Diseases		X
Other Neurological Diseases, with Surgery		X
Parkinson's Disease*	X	
Parkinson's Disease, with Surgery*	X	
Routine Exam		X

Condition	Always Include	Include if Involved
Visual Disturbances, Single Side		X
Visual Disturbances, with Surgery, unilateral		X

\*Episodes for these conditions are excluded from patient total 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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