

Premium Specialty: General Surgery

Credentialed Specialties Include: Colon and Rectal Surgery, Proctology, Surgery, Surgery Abdominal

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 General Surgery 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 Performance Evaluation Example for Safe, Timely and Effective Quality Measures](#) and [Attribution Methods](#) documents to learn more.

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Appendectomy - without Rupture	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) 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
Cholecystectomy	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) 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
Colonoscopy - Diagnostic	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
Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines	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
Inguinal Hernia Repair	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) 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
	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
Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) or colonoscopy within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) or colonoscopy 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
	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
Lower Gastrointestinal Removal	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) or colonoscopy within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) or colonoscopy 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

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Lower Gastrointestinal Removal	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
Risk Of Continued Opioid Use	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
	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
	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
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
Umbilical Hernia Repair	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) 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
	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
Umbilical Hernia 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
Use of Contrast Material in CT	Patient(s) with an abdomen CT test performed that did not have "combined studies" (with and without contrast material)	Patient did not have an abdomen CT test using combined studies (with and without contrast material)	Low Value Care	Ordering	Contact Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Use of Opioid Medications	Patient(s) 18 years or older without an average morphine milligram equivalent (MME) \geq 90mg/day during the treatment period	Patient did not have an average morphine equivalent dose \geq 90 mg/day	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Use Of Opioids From Multiple Providers	Patient(s) 18 years or older that did not fill opioid prescriptions from four or more different prescribers	Patient did not have opioid medications from four or more different prescribers dispensed	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
Ventral Hernia Repair	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) 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
	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
Ventral Hernia Repair - Revision	Patient(s) without advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) within 180 days after the assessed procedure (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	Patient did not have advanced imaging (e.g., CT, MRI) within 180 days after the assessed procedure	Outcomes	Rendering	Synopsis

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Ventral Hernia Repair - Revision	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

Important Notes

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

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.

Insurance coverage provided by or through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or its affiliates. Health plan coverage provided by UnitedHealthcare of Arizona, Inc., UHC of California DBA UnitedHealthcare of California, UnitedHealthcare Benefits Plan of California, UnitedHealthcare of Colorado, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc., MAMSI Life and Health Insurance Company, UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc., UnitedHealthcare Insurance Co. of New York, UnitedHealthcare of Oklahoma, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Oregon, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Pennsylvania, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Texas, Inc., UnitedHealthcare Benefits of Texas, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Utah, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Washington, Inc., Optimum Choice, Inc., Oxford Health Insurance, Inc., Oxford Health Plans (NJ), Inc., Oxford Health Plans (CT), Inc., All Savers Insurance Company, or other affiliates. Administrative services provided by OptumHealth Care Solutions, LLC, OptumRx, Oxford Health Plans LLC, United HealthCare Services, Inc., or other affiliates. Behavioral health products provided by U.S. Behavioral Health Plan, California (USBHPC) or its affiliates.