

Premium Specialty: Rheumatology					
Effective Quality Care					
Additional UnitedHealth Premium® methodology documents are located on unitedhealthpremium.uhc.com .					
Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Adherence to Non-Infused Biologic Medications Used to Treat Rheumatoid Arthritis	Patient(s) compliant with all prescribed non-infused biologic medications used to treat rheumatoid arthritis (minimum compliance 80% or higher)	Patient was 80% or more compliant with all prescribed non-infused biologic medications used to treat rheumatoid arthritis	Guideline Concordance: Chronic Disease	Patient	Contact Pharmacy Quality Alliance
Back Pain	Patient(s) 18-64 years with uncomplicated low back pain that did not have imaging studies	Patient with uncomplicated low back pain did not have imaging studies	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
	Patient(s) 65-75 years with uncomplicated low back pain that did not have imaging studies	Patient with uncomplicated low back pain did not have imaging studies	Low Value Care	Rendering	Contact National Committee for Quality Assurance
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 / Partnership for Quality Measurement
Head Imaging for Uncomplicated Headache	Patient(s) with uncomplicated headache that did not have imaging studies	Patient with uncomplicated headache did not have imaging studies	Low Value Care	Rendering	Synopsis
Medication Safety Monitoring	Older adult patients who had an accidental fall or hip fracture who did not use an antiepileptic, nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic, SSRI, SNRI, antipsychotic, benzodiazepine, or tricyclic antidepressant after the incident	Patient with an accidental fall or hip fracture did not have an antiepileptic, nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic, SSRI, SNRI, antipsychotic, benzodiazepine, or tricyclic antidepressant medication dispensed after the incident	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum / Partnership for Quality Measurement
	Older adult patients with chronic kidney disease who did not use a Cox-2 selective or nonaspirin NSAID after the earliest record of chronic kidney disease	Patient with chronic kidney disease did not have a Cox-2 selective or nonaspirin non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) dispensed after the earliest record of chronic kidney disease	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum / Partnership for Quality Measurement
	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 / Partnership for Quality Measurement

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MRI Lumbar Spine For Low Back Pain	Patient(s) with a lumbar spine MRI and low back pain diagnosis on the imaging claim that have claims-based evidence of antecedent conservative therapy	Patient with a lumbar spine MRI and low back pain diagnosis had antecedent conservative therapy	Low Value Care	Ordering	Contact Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Osteoporosis Management	Patient(s) compliant with prescribed oral bisphosphonate (minimum compliance 80%)	Patient was 80% or more compliant with prescribed oral bisphosphonate medication	Guideline Concordance: Chronic Disease	Patient	Synopsis
	Women 67-85 years 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	Guideline Concordance: Chronic Disease	Patient	Contact National Quality Forum / Partnership for Quality Measurement
Rheumatoid Arthritis	Patient(s) compliant with prescribed hydroxychloroquine (minimum compliance 80%)	Patient was 80% or more compliant with prescribed hydroxychloroquine	Guideline Concordance: Chronic Disease	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) compliant with prescribed methotrexate (minimum compliance 80%)	Patient was 80% or more compliant with prescribed methotrexate medication	Guideline Concordance: Chronic Disease	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	Guideline Concordance: Chronic Disease	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) taking methotrexate, sulfasalazine, or leflunomide that had a CBC in last 3 reported months	Patient taking methotrexate, sulfasalazine, or leflunomide medication had a complete blood count (CBC) test	Safety	Patient	Synopsis
	Patient(s) taking methotrexate, sulfasalazine, or leflunomide that had serum ALT or AST test in last 3 reported months	Patient taking methotrexate, sulfasalazine or leflunomide medication had a serum ALT or AST test	Safety	Patient	Synopsis
Risk Of Continued Opioid Use	Patient(s) age 18-64 years who were opioid-naïve 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-naïve 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

Condition/Procedure	Measure	Compliance Criteria	Measure Type	Attribution Method	Source
Risk Of Continued Opioid Use	Patient(s) age 18-64 years who were opioid-naïve 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-naïve 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
Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults	Patients 67 years and older who did not receive two or more of the same high-risk medications except for appropriate diagnosis in the last 12 reported months	Patient did not have two or more of the same high-risk medications except for the appropriate diagnosis dispensed	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum / Partnership for Quality Measurement
	Patients 67 years and older who did not receive two or more of the same high-risk medications from the same drug class in the last 12 reported months	Patient did not have two or more of the same high-risk medications from the same drug class dispensed	Safety	Prescribing	Contact National Quality Forum / Partnership for Quality Measurement
Use of Opioid Medications	Patient(s) 18 years or older without an average morphine milligram equivalent (MME) >= 90mg/day during the treatment period	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	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

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.