Medication Adherence for Cholesterol (MAC)
2024 Performance Year

Measure Description

Percentage of members ages 18 and older who adhere to their cholesterol (statin) medication(s) at least 80% of the time during the measurement period. These claims can be either for the same medication or other medications in the same drug class.

Patients fall into the MAC denominator when there are two pharmacy claims for their cholesterol medication(s) on unique dates of service during the performance year.

Required Exclusions

- Patients in hospice or using a hospice benefit anytime during the performance year
- End stage renal disease (ESRD) diagnosis during the performance year

Actions

- **Prescription fills are captured via pharmacy claim only**. Only prescriptions filled with a patient's health plan ID card can be used to measure a patient's adherence to their medication.
- Consider writing 90-100 day prescriptions with 3 refills to help improve medication adherence when clinically appropriate
- Ensure the second refill date is on time. The patient will fall into the denominator with this fill, but the treatment begin date will be the date of the 1st fill.
- Assess, document and address clinical barriers for non-adherence with the patient at every visit
- Work medication adherence reports by making outreach to the patients who are coming up due or past due for a refill
- Encourage patients to fill medications using a mail order service, if available
- When clinically appropriate, prescribe low cost generic medications to reduce patient out of pocket overall costs
- Avoid using samples or discount medication programs during the middle of the treatment period. If samples or programs are going to be used, please continue this action through the end of the measurement year.
- Write a discontinuation order for previous scripts when medications are discontinued or doses are changed. The intent of this action is to notify the pharmacy of the discontinuation of the medication.

*The medication adherence measure is adapted from the Medication Adherence Proportion of Days Covered measure that was developed and endorsed by the Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA). CMS also uses internal Medicare data to generate the rates for the medication adherence measures.

Resources

Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) 2023–PQA typically releases new measures specifications from Feb-March 2024. This tip sheet will be updated upon release of those specifications.