

Medication Adherence

Drug Safety and Accuracy of Drug Pricing CMS Measure

► MEASURE DEFINITION

Percent of plan members with a prescription for diabetes, hypertension, or statin medications who fill their prescription often enough to cover 80 percent or more of the time they are supposed to be taking the medication.¹

Medications in this measure		
Cholesterol	Hypertension	Diabetes
Statins	Renin-angiotensin system (RAS) antagonists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors • Angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs) • Direct renin inhibitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biguanides • Sulfonylureas • Thiazolidinediones • Dipeptidyl peptidase (DPP)- IV inhibitors • Incretin mimetics • Meglitinides • Sodium glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors

► EXCLUSIONS FROM THE MEASURE

- Patients with diabetes are excluded if they have:
 - End-stage renal disease any time during the measurement period, or
 - One or more prescription claims for insulin in the measurement period.
- Patients with hypertension are excluded if they have:
 - End-stage renal disease any time during the measurement period, or
 - Received one or more prescription claims for sacubitril/valsartan during the measurement period.

TIPS FOR PATIENT EDUCATION

- Ask your patient at each visit about their medication habits, including the average number of doses they may miss each week. Continue with open-ended questions to identify barriers to taking medications:
 - What side effects have you had from the medication?
 - How many doses have you forgotten to take?
 - What things have made it difficult for you to pay for your medication?
 - What issues prevent you from refilling your prescription?
- Emphasize the benefits of taking the medication and the risks of not taking it.
- Offer recommendations for improvement:
 - For patients who forget to take their medications, recommend weekly or monthly pillboxes, smart phone apps with medication reminder alerts and placing medications in a visible area (but in properly closed containers and safely out of reach of children or pets).
 - If patients experience side effects, encourage them to call your office to discuss alternative medications.
 - Suggest that patients call their health plan to find out if mail delivery is available for their prescription(s).

► **ADDITIONAL TIPS**

- Write 90-day supplies of maintenance medications and suggest that your patients use a mail-order pharmacy if available.
- Write prescriptions with refills for patients who are stable on their medications to alleviate any time lapse between fills.

Source:

¹ <https://www.pqaalliance.org/> accessed Aug. 19, 2019