

Medication Adherence (Diabetes, Hypertension, Cholesterol) provider tipsheet

Did you know?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Stars program assesses the quality and performance of Medicare insurance plans. The medication adherence measures are endorsed by the Pharmacy Quality Alliance.

The scores we receive help us understand the quality of care your Medicare patients receive while managing common conditions.



Use this tip sheet to help **ensure your patients are taking the most cost-effective drugs at the right time, and to succeed in the Medication Adherence for Diabetes, Hypertension and Cholesterol measure.**

Measure overview

Eligible population		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients 18 years or older, with at least two prescription claims on different DOS for medications. The treatment period must last at least 91 days. The prescription claims can be for the same or different targeted medications for the respective classes. 		
Compliance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients who filled their prescribed medication often enough to cover 80% or more of the treatment period. <p>Note: Patients must use their Priority Health pharmacy benefit as gap closure is dependent on pharmacy claims.</p>		
Medications included in each measure		
Diabetes	Hypertension	Cholesterol
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biguanides Sulfonylureas Thiazolidinediones Dipeptidyl peptidase (DPP)-IV inhibitors Incretin mimetics Meglitinides Sodium glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors 	Renin-angiotensin system (RAS) antagonists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors Angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs) Direct renin inhibitors 	Statins
Exclusions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End Stage Renal Disease diagnosis Hospice services anytime during the measurement year Diabetes measure only: Insulin prescription Hypertension measure only: prescription for sacubitril/valsartan 		
Exclusions must be reported annually through claim submissions during the measurement year.		

For complete incentive program details and requirements, providers should review the PCP PIP Manual and the full Part D measure tip sheets available on the provider portal.

Medications covered by our Medicare Advantage Plans in 2026

Medications covered by our Medicare Advantage plans*		
Diabetes	Hypertension	Cholesterol
<p>Tier 1 (preferred generic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • glimepiride • glipizide; glipizide ER • glipizide-metformin • metformin; metformin ER • pioglitazone • repaglinide <p>Tier 2 (generic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acarbose • nateglinide • pioglitazone-metformin <p>Tier 3 (preferred brand)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dapagliflozin • Farxiga • Glyxambi • Janumet; Janumet XR • Januvia • Jardiance • Jentadueto; Jentadueto XR • Mounjaro • Ozempic • pioglitazone-glimepiride • Rybelsus • Synjardy; Synjardy XR • Tradjenta; Tradjenta XR • Trijardy XR • Trulicity • Xigduo XR 	<p>Tier 1 (preferred generic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amlodipine-benazepril • amlodipine-olmesartan • amlodipine-valsartan • benazepril • benazepril-HCTZ • candesartan-HCTZ • enalapril • enalapril-HCTZ • fosinopril • fosinopril-HCTZ • irbesartan • irbesartan-HCTZ • lisinopril • lisinopril-HCTZ • losartan • losartan-HCTZ • olmesartan • olmesartan-HCTZ • perindopril • quinapril • quinapril-HCTZ • ramipril • telmisartan • trandolapril-verapamil ER • valsartan • valsartan-HCTZ <p>Tier 2 (generic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candesartan • candesartan-HCTZ • captopril • moexipril • olmesartan-amlodopine-HCTZ 	<p>Tier 1 (preferred generic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atorvastatin • lovastatin • pravastatin • rosuvastatin • simvastatin <p>Tier 2 (generic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ezetimibe-simvastatin

*Patient cost saving opportunity

Tier 1 medications are available with \$0 copays for most Medicare Advantage members when filling 100-day prescriptions at preferred mail order pharmacies, including Express Scripts and Amazon Pharmacy or at preferred retail pharmacies such as Meijer, Walgreens and Walmart. You can use the online [Find a Doctor tool](#) to find the full list of preferred pharmacies.

For Priority Health's Approved Drug List, refer to [Priority Health Medicare 2026 Formulary](#).

Want to learn more about our programs that can help close care gaps for your patients, our members? Contact your ACN's Provider Network Management Specialist.

Best practices

Prescribe extended fills	Review medications	Check for patients' understanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For chronic medications, e-prescribe a 100-day quantity with three refills to the patient's preferred retail pharmacy. Tier 1 medications are \$0 for 100-day supplies at preferred retail and mail-order pharmacies, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 medications are \$0 for 90-day supplies through preferred mail order. Encourage patients to fill prescriptions using their health plan pharmacy benefit. <p>Note: Claims filled through pharmacy discount programs and cash claims won't close care gaps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During each visit, review and document all medications and supplements with the patient. When possible, remove medications no longer needed and/or reduce dosages. Check if higher cost medications can be changed to Tier 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure your patients know why you're prescribing a medication. Clearly explain what they are, what they do, and how to manage potential side effects. Discuss the importance of taking their medications as prescribed. Schedule a follow-up visit within 30 days when prescribing a new medication to assess effectiveness and any barriers.

Talking points to help support medication adherence in your patients

Patient barriers	Provider talking points
I don't understand why I need to take my medication, I feel fine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These medications help prevent serious complications. Staying on our medication keeps your condition under control and protects your long-term health.
I experienced side effects after taking my medication. Should I be worried?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage patients to contact their pharmacist or provider to discuss alternate drugs or dosing strategies to improve tolerance.
My medications cost too much. Are there alternatives for affordable medications?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100-day supply Tier 1 medications are covered for most Priority Health Medicare members for a \$0 copay at a preferred retail pharmacy or mail order. 90-day supply Tier 1 and 2 medications are covered at \$0 for preferred mail order.
How do I remember to fill my medication?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to your patients or their caregivers about how they can enroll in mail-order pharmacy or in a refill reminder program through their pharmacy.
It's difficult for me to get to the pharmacy. What alternatives are available for me to get my medications?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest your patient obtain prescriptions from a mail-order pharmacy. Ask the patient to check with family members or a caregiver to help pick up prescriptions.
How can I easily track my medications?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the patient's pharmacy to synchronize medications so they're all filled on the same day. Encourage the use of a pillbox or phone calendar reminders to help patients take their medications at the correct time(s).