

Frailty and Advanced Illness Exclusions



As a care provider, you make sure your patients are getting the preventive care they need, when they need it. We want to help complement your efforts by providing the latest updated information on frailty and advanced illness exclusions for your UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plan members.

What You Need to Know

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) added a new set of exclusions for members with advanced illness and/or frailty for select HEDIS® measures. They made this change because quality measures originally meant for the general adult population may not be appropriate for people with frailty and/or advanced illness. The exclusions are determined by claims during the measurement year only.

Frailty With Advanced Illness Exclusion

This exclusion is applicable for members ages 66 and older as of December 31 of the measurement year with frailty and advanced illness during the measurement year. Advanced illness is identified by counting a member's diagnoses or services during the measurement year or year prior to the measurement year.

Measures impacted:	Conditions flagged as indicating frailty with advanced illness include, but are not limited to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breast cancer screening (BCS)• Colorectal cancer screening (COL)• Comprehensive diabetes care (CDC)• Controlling high blood pressure (CBP)• Disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug therapy for rheumatoid arthritis (ART)• Osteoporosis management in women who had fracture (OMW)• Persistence of beta-blocker treatment after a heart attack (PBH)• Statin therapy for patients with cardiovascular disease (SPC)• Statin therapy for patients with diabetes (SPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease• Dementia: Alzheimer's disease, amnesia, Lewy body dementia or member dispensed a dementia medication• Heart disease: Congestive heart failure (CHF), left ventricular failure or heart failure• Hepatic: Cirrhosis, hepatitis, fibrosis or sclerosis• Hypertensive heart with one or more of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Heart failure, end-stage renal disease (ESRD) or kidney disease• Malignancy: Pancreas, brain, lymph, respiratory, digestive, renal, leukemia or hepatic• Nervous system: Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease or Pick's disease• Renal: Chronic kidney disease or ESRD• Respiratory: Emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis or respiratory failure

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Exclusion Criteria for BCS, COL, CDC, CBP, ART, OMW, PBH, SPC and SPD Measures

Exclusion	Timeframe
<p>Members ages 66 and older as of December 31 of the measurement year who had a diagnosis of frailty and advanced illness.</p> <p>Advanced illness is indicated by one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more outpatient, observation, emergency room (ER) or non-acute inpatient visits on separate dates of service with a diagnosis of advanced illness • One or more inpatient visit(s) with a diagnosis of advanced illness • Dispensed a dementia medication including Donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine or memantine 	<p>Frailty diagnosis must be in the measurement year.</p> <p>Advanced illness diagnosis must be in the measurement year or year prior to the measurement year.</p>

For a comprehensive list of all NCQA HEDIS® technical frailty and advanced illness codes with descriptions, please see the 2019 Reference Guide for Adult Health available at [UHCprovider.com/path](https://uhcprovider.com/path).

Contact us to learn more.

For more information, please contact your UnitedHealthcare representative.

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