

UnitedHealth Premium[®]

Efficient quality care measurement by Premium specialty

Use this document with the UnitedHealth Premium[®] methodology documents at unitedhealthpremium.uhc.com. Please review all methodology documents to understand the entire Premium methodology.

Efficient quality care measurement by specialty

There are 2 measurements used to evaluate efficient quality care:

- Patient annual cost
- Patient episode cost

The Premium program uses the measurement applicable to the physician's Premium specialty. For specialties measured using patient annual cost, Premium uses the patient episode cost measurement when the physician does not have enough patients attributed for patient annual cost.

Premium specialty	Patient annual cost	Patient episode cost
Allergy	✓	
Cardiology	✓	
Ear, nose and throat		✓
Endocrinology	✓	
Family medicine	✓	
Gastroenterology		✓
General surgery		✓
Internal medicine	✓	
Nephrology	✓	
Neurology	✓	
Neurosurgery, orthopedics and spine		✓
Obstetrics and gynecology	✓	
Pediatrics	✓	
Pulmonology	✓	
Rheumatology	✓	
Urology		✓

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 particular member. UnitedHealthcare does not practice medicine nor provide health care services. Physicians are solely responsible for medical judgments and treatments supplied. A Premium Care Physician designation does not guarantee the quality of health care services members will receive from a physician and does not guarantee the outcome of any health care services members will receive.

The fact that a physician doesn't have a Premium Care Physician designation doesn't mean the physician doesn't 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 under 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 Premium Care designation because that physician has not been evaluated for a Premium Care designation. This occurs when a physician does not practice in a specialty that is evaluated by Premium or when a physician's evaluation is in process. It also occurs when a physician does not have enough health plan claims data to be evaluated, but it is not an indicator of the total number of patients treated by the physician or the number of procedures performed by the physician. Rather, it reflects the statistical requirements of Premium which includes only health plan claims associated with specific Premium measures and relevant to the physician's specialty. In some cases, there may not be enough data to complete the analytic process from a statistical standpoint.

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. As with all programs that evaluate performance based on analysis of a sample, there is a risk of error. There is a risk of error in the claims data used in the evaluation, the calculations used in the evaluation, and the way Premium determined that an individual physician was responsible for the treatment of the patient's condition. **Physicians have the opportunity to review this data and submit a reconsideration request.**

UnitedHealthcare uses statistical testing to compare a physician's results to expected or normative results. 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. We inform members that it is important that they consider many factors and information when selecting a physician.

We also inform our members that they may wish to discuss designations with a physician before choosing them, or confer with their current physician for advice on selecting other physicians.

The information contained in this document is subject to change.

Learn more

UnitedHealth Premium | unitedhealthpremium.uhc.com

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