

UnitedHealth Premium Program Designation description and criteria

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

Overview

The UnitedHealth Premium program designates physicians based on safe, timely, effective and efficient quality care criteria. This designation may be used by members to help them make more informed choices for their medical care and may be used by physicians to make referrals. Physicians may also use evaluation details to support their efforts to provide quality care for their patients.

In markets where tiered benefit plans are available, employers may offer employees a tiered benefit plan with a lower member cost share for using select Premium Care Physicians.

The UnitedHealth Premium program evaluates physicians annually using updated methodologies and data. Premium Care Physicians are those who either:

- Meet safe, timely, effective and efficient quality care criteria
- Meet safe, timely and effective quality care criteria but do not have enough data to evaluate efficient care quality criteria

Premium designation display

Premium Care Physicians are featured in our medical care directories with the following icon and description. All other physicians have no designation displayed.



Premium Care Physician

This physician meets the UnitedHealth Premium quality care criteria, which includes safe, timely, effective and efficient care.

Premium designation criteria

Step 1: Physician Results – Current Version

Physicians who have a sufficient number of attributed safe, timely and effective care quality measures for the current version (sufficient data) are designated if they meet the Premium Care criteria.

Step 2: Specialty Group Results – Current Version

Physicians from step 1 who do not have sufficient data and whose efficient care performance is not statistically higher than 75th percentile are designated if an affiliated medical group meets the Premium Care criteria for their Premium specialty and geographic area for the current version. The Premium program considers physicians to be affiliated with a medical group when they are included under a medical group agreement(s) with UnitedHealthcare at the time of evaluation.

Step 3: Physician Results – Previous Version

Physicians from step 2 who are not affiliated with a medical group that meets the Premium Care criteria are designated if they met the Premium Care criteria for the previous version, provided:

- Their current and previous version Premium specialty is the same* and
- Their previous version results were based on that version's physician or specialty group results

*Cardiologists who were evaluated as electrophysiologists and gastroenterologists who were evaluated as internal medicine physicians in the previous version are considered the same Premium specialty for purposes of applying the previous version result.

Important notes about the UnitedHealth Premium Program

The information from the UnitedHealth Premium program 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 further 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 the Premium program, 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 the Premium program, which includes only health plan claims associated with specific Premium program 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 the Premium program 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 him or her, 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 Program | UnitedHealthPremium.uhc.com

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