

Premium Specialty: Neurosurgery, Orthopedics and Spine

Credentialed Specialties Include: Back and Spine Surgery, Hand Surgery, Knee Surgery, Neurological Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Shoulder Surgery, Sports Medicine

Patient Episode Cost

Use this document with the UnitedHealth Premium® Program Methodology document at UnitedHealthPremium.UHC.com. Please review all of the methodology documents to understand the entire Premium methodology.

We evaluate physicians in the Neurosurgery, Orthopedics and Spine Premium specialty using the patient episode cost measurement with the attributed condition-based and procedure-based episodes listed in the following chart.

Attribution methods determine which physicians and groups are responsible for care given to patients. Patient episode cost measurement uses the cost-attribution method for condition-based episodes and the rendering-attribution method for procedure-based episodes.

- **Cost:** The physician who was responsible for generating the highest percentage of services, based on normalized cost, in the episode. To make sure there was significant involvement, the attributed physician must be responsible for at least 50% of the normalized cost of the episode.

- **Rendering:** The physician who performed the primary procedure. Performing the primary procedure constitutes significant involvement and therefore no cost percentage threshold is applied.

Please view the [Attribution Methods](#) document to learn more.

For procedure-based episodes, once an anchor procedure is identified, non-anchor claims from related episode treatment groups "target" procedures that are clinically related to the anchor procedure. The non-anchor claims are then grouped to each episode within the Claims Grouping Timeframes noted below.

Please view the [Patient Episode Cost](#) document to learn more.

Condition-Based Episodes

Adult Rheumatoid Arthritis*

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Elbow and Upper Arm, Bilateral

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Elbow and Upper Arm, Single Side

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Foot and Ankle, Bilateral

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Foot and Ankle, Single Side

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, Bilateral

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, Single Side

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Knee and Lower Leg, Bilateral

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Knee and Lower Leg, Single Side

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Shoulder

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

Condition-Based Episodes

Conditional Exam

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, Bilateral

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, Single Side

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Elbow and Upper Arm

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Foot and Ankle, Bilateral

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Foot and Ankle, Single Side

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Hand, Wrist and Forearm

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Knee and Lower Leg, Bilateral

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Knee and Lower Leg, Single Side

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Neck

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Shoulder

Joint Degeneration, Localized - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis

Joint Derangement - Elbow and Upper Arm

Joint Derangement - Foot and Ankle

Joint Derangement - Hand, Wrist and Forearm

Joint Derangement - Knee and Lower Leg

Joint Derangement - Shoulder, Bilateral

Joint Derangement - Shoulder, Single Side

Joint Derangement - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis, Bilateral

Joint Derangement - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis, Single Side

Low Back Pain Syndrome

Major Joint Inflammation - Back

Major Joint Inflammation - Knee and Lower Leg

Major Joint Inflammation - Shoulder

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Back

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Elbow and Upper Arm

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Foot and Ankle, Bilateral

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Foot and Ankle, Single Side

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, Bilateral

Condition-Based Episodes

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, Single Side

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Knee and Lower Leg

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Neck

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Shoulder

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis, Bilateral

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis, Single Side

Minor Orthopedic Trauma - Trunk

Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Bone and Connective Tissue, Other than Head and Neck

Orthopedic Deformity - Back

Orthopedic Deformity - Foot and Ankle

Orthopedic Deformity - Hand, Wrist and Forearm

Orthopedic Deformity - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Back

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Elbow and Upper Arm

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Foot and Ankle

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Hand, Wrist and Forearm

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Knee and Lower Leg

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Neck

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Shoulder

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis

Osteoporosis*

Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Back

Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Foot and Ankle

Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Hand, Wrist and Forearm

Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Knee and Lower Leg

Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Shoulder

Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis

Condition-Based Episodes

Routine Exam

*Episodes for these conditions are excluded from patient episode cost measurement for patients whose pharmacy cost data isn't available.

Procedure-Based Episodes	Claims Grouping Timeframe	
	Days Before	Days After
Achilles Tendon Repair (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	0	42
Ankle Ligament Repair (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Arthrodesis (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Arthrodesis - Single Joint (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Arthroscopic Removal of Foreign Body - Debridement of Shoulder (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Arthroscopic Repair Shoulder - Rotator Cuff or Slap Shoulder (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Bunionectomy (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Carpal Tunnel Release - Arthroscopy (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Carpal Tunnel Release - Open (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Cervical Spine Fusion	14	42
Hip Arthroscopy (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Hip Replacement (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Hip Replacement - Revision (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Knee Arthroscopy with Cruciate Ligament Repair (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	28
Knee Arthroscopy with Meniscectomy (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	28
Knee Replacement Surgery (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Lumbar Decompression	14	42
Lumbar Fusion	14	42
Other Arthroscopic Procedures - Shoulder (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Other Knee Arthroscopy with Treatment (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	28
Rotator Cuff Repair (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Thoracic Spine Fusion	14	42

Procedure-Based Episodes	Claims Grouping Timeframe	
	Days Before	Days After
Total Shoulder Replacement (Note: evaluation for single-side and bilateral procedures is performed separately)	14	42
Vertebral Corpectomy	14	42

Important Notes

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.

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