

Premium Specialty: Rheumatology

Credentialed Specialties Include: Rheumatology

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 Rheumatology Premium specialty using the [patient episode cost](#) measurement with the attributed condition-based episodes listed in the following chart.

Attribution methods determine which physicians and groups are responsible for care given to patients. Condition-based episodes are attributed using the cost method: 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 total normalized cost of the episode.

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

Condition-Based Episodes

Adult Rheumatoid Arthritis*

Arterial Inflammation

Autoimmune Rheumatologic Diseases, except Lupus*

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

Bursitis and Tendinitis - Unspecified

Chronic Renal Failure

Conditional Exam

Gout*

Hypo-Functioning Thyroid Gland*

Condition-Based Episodes

Immunodeficiencies*

Inflammatory Eye Disease*

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 Degeneration, Localized - Unspecified*

Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis*

Low Back Pain Syndrome

Lupus*

Major Joint Inflammation - Back

Major Joint Inflammation - Elbow and Upper Arm

Major Joint Inflammation - Foot and Ankle

Major Joint Inflammation - Hand, Wrist and Forearm

Major Joint Inflammation - Knee and Lower Leg

Major Joint Inflammation - Other

Major Joint Inflammation - Shoulder

Major Joint Inflammation - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis

Major Joint Inflammation - Unspecified*

Nutritional Deficiency

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Back

Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Elbow and Upper Arm

Condition-Based Episodes
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
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Unspecified
Osteoporosis*
Other Inflammation of Skin*
Other Inflammatory Lung Diseases*
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 - Neck
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Shoulder
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis
Psoriasis*
Routine Exam

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

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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