

Premium Specialty: Rheumatology
Credentialed Specialties Include: Rheumatology

Patient Total 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 total cost](#) measurement using the condition-based episodes listed in the following chart.

Attribution methods determine which physicians are responsible for giving care to patients. Patient total cost measurement uses the patient attribution method. Please view the [Attribution Methods](#) document to learn more.

We use two methods to determine if we should include costs from an eligible treatment episode. These methods depend on the condition:

- **Always include:** Costs from an eligible treatment episode for an attributed patient, regardless of the attributed physician's level of involvement in the treatment of the patient's condition.
- **Include if involved:** Costs from an eligible treatment episode for an attributed patient if the attributed physician is responsible for at least 30% of the costs.

When the physician doesn't have a sufficient number of patients attributed, the Premium program uses the [patient episode cost](#) measurement.

Condition	Always Include	Include if Involved
Adult Rheumatoid Arthritis*	X	
Arterial Inflammation		X
Arterial Inflammation, with Surgery		X
Autoimmune Rheumatologic Diseases, except Lupus*	X	
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Elbow and Upper Arm, Single Side		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Elbow and Upper Arm, with Surgery		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Foot and Ankle, Single Side		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Foot and Ankle, with Surgery		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, Single Side		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, with Surgery		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Knee and Lower Leg, Single Side		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Shoulder		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis, with Surgery		X
Bursitis and Tendinitis - Unspecified		X
Chronic Renal Failure		X

Condition	Always Include	Include if Involved
Conditional Exam		X
Gout*		X
Gout, with Surgery*		X
Hypo-Functioning Thyroid Gland*		X
Immunodeficiencies*		X
Inflammatory Eye Disease*		X
Inflammatory Eye Disease, with Surgery*		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, Single Side		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Back, with Surgery, unilateral		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Elbow and Upper Arm		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Elbow and Upper Arm, with Surgery		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Foot and Ankle, Single Side		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Foot and Ankle, with Surgery		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Hand, Wrist and Forearm		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, with Surgery		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Knee and Lower Leg, Single Side		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Knee and Lower Leg, with Surgery		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Neck		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Neck, with Surgery		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Shoulder		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Shoulder, with Surgery		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis, with Surgery		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Unspecified*		X
Joint Degeneration, Localized - Unspecified, with Surgery*		X
Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis*	X	
Low Back Pain Syndrome		X
Lupus*	X	
Major Joint Inflammation - Back		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Back, with Surgery		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Elbow and Upper Arm		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Foot and Ankle		X

Condition	Always Include	Include if Involved
Major Joint Inflammation - Hand, Wrist and Forearm		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Hand, Wrist and Forearm, with Surgery		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Knee and Lower Leg		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Knee and Lower Leg, with Surgery		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Other		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Shoulder		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Unspecified*		X
Major Joint Inflammation - Unspecified, with Surgery*		X
Nutritional Deficiency		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Back		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Elbow and Upper Arm		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Foot and Ankle		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Hand, Wrist and Forearm		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Knee and Lower Leg		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Neck		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Shoulder		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis		X
Orthopedic Signs and Symptoms - Unspecified		X
Osteoporosis*		X
Other Inflammation of Skin*		X
Other Inflammatory Lung Diseases*		X
Other Inflammatory Lung Diseases, with Surgery*		X
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Back		X
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Foot and Ankle		X
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Hand, Wrist and Forearm		X
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Knee and Lower Leg		X
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Neck		X
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Shoulder		X
Other Minor Orthopedic Disorders - Thigh, Hip and Pelvis		X
Psoriasis*		X

Condition	Always Include	Include if Involved
Routine Exam		X

*Episodes for these conditions are excluded from patient total 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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