

Premium Specialty: Gastroenterology

Credentialed Specialties Include: Gastroenterology, Hepatology-Liver Disease

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 Gastroenterology 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

Acute Pancreatitis

Anomaly of Stomach or Esophagus

Bowel Obstruction

Celiac Disease

Cholelithiasis

Chronic Pancreatitis

Cirrhosis*

Conditional Exam

Congenital Anomalies of Intestines and Abdomen

Diverticulitis and Diverticulosis

Gastritis and/or Duodenitis

Gastroenterology Diseases Signs and Symptoms

Hemorrhoids

Hepatology Diseases Signs and Symptoms

Condition-Based Episodes
Hernias, except Hiatal, Bilateral
Hernias, except Hiatal, Single Side
Hiatal Hernia
Infection of Stomach and Esophagus
Infectious Hepatitis*
Inflammation of Esophagus
Inflammation of Rectum or Anus
Inflammatory Bowel Disease*
Iron Deficiency Anemia
Irritable Bowel Syndrome*
Malignant Neoplasm of Large Intestine
Malignant Neoplasm of Rectum or Anus
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach and Esophagus
Non-Infectious Hepatitis
Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Hepatobiliary System
Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Intestines and Abdomen
Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Rectum or Anus
Non-Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach and Esophagus
Obesity
Other Inflammation of Intestines and Abdomen
Routine Exam
Ulcer
Vascular Diseases of Intestines and Abdomen

*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
Colonoscopy - Diagnostic	5	10
Dilation of Esophagus	14	14
Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography - with Stent	14	42

Procedure-Based Episodes	Claims Grouping Timeframe	
	Days Before	Days After
Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography - without Stent	14	42
Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	14	30
Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	14	30
Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy - Non-Variceal Bleeding	14	30
Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy - Variceal Bleeding	14	30

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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