



IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY

Pharmacotherapy Management of COPD Exacerbation

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) collects quality data from our providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive. Pharmacotherapy Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Exacerbation, or PCE, is one aspect of care we measure in our quality programs. Quality measures evaluate a prior calendar year performance.

What We Measure

We capture the percentage of COPD exacerbations for members ages 40 and older who had an acute inpatient discharge or emergency department (ED) visit on or between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30 of the measurement year, and who were dispensed appropriate medications. Rates are reported for members dispensed:

- A systemic corticosteroid (or evidence of an active prescription) within 14 days of the event
- A bronchodilator (or evidence of an active prescription) within 30 days of the event

PCE is a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure. See the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\) website](#) for more details.



Why It Matters

More than 6% of adults in the U.S. have COPD, an irreversible disease that limits airflow from the lungs, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). COPD exacerbations, or “flare-ups,” contribute significantly to the costs of this disease, according to [NCQA](#). Prescribing appropriate medications can control symptoms and prevent future flare-ups.

Eligible Population

Members ages 40 and older as of Jan. 1 of the measurement year are included in this measure.

Note: The eligible population includes all acute inpatient discharges and ED visits. Multiple events may be reported for one individual.

Exclusions: Members in hospice care are excluded from this measure.

Tips to Consider

- Schedule a follow-up appointment after discharge and check that our members have the appropriate medications.
- Consider asking our members if any barriers prevent them from filling prescriptions. Many drug manufacturers have coupons on their websites.
- Reconcile members’ medications with what was prescribed at discharge when you receive discharge information.

How to Document

Data for this measure is collected from claims data only. There is no chart review.

For more information, see [NCQA’s HEDIS Measures and Technical Resources](#).



Questions?

Contact your BCBSTX Network Representative.



The above material is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician or other health care provider. Physicians and other health care providers are encouraged to use their own medical judgment based upon all available information and the condition of the patient in determining the appropriate course of treatment. The fact that a service or treatment is described in this material is not a guarantee that the service or treatment is a covered benefit and members should refer to their certificate of coverage for more details, including benefits, limitations and exclusions. Regardless of benefits, the final decision about any service or treatment is between the member and their health care provider.

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