New Measure Recommended for ENDORSEMENT by PQA

Adherence to Non-Infused Biologic Medications Used to Treat Rheumatoid Arthritis (PDC-RA)

DESCRIPTION: The percentage of patients 18 years and older with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who met the Proportion of Days Covered (PDC) threshold of 80% during the measurement period for biologic medications used to treat RA. A higher rate indicates better performance.

The denominator includes individuals 18 years and older by the first day of the measurement year, who are continuously enrolled, have a diagnosis for rheumatoid arthritis, and have two or more prescription claims for non-infused biologic medications used to treat RA filled on two unique dates of service, for which the sum of the days’ supply is 56 days or greater.

Individuals with one or more claims for an infused biologic used to treat RA during the treatment period are EXCLUDED from the measure.

The numerator includes individuals from the denominator that met the 80% PDC threshold during the measurement year.

DATA SOURCE: Prescription claims and medical claims data

LEVEL OF MEASUREMENT: Health Plan

KEY POINTS:

- Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic and progressive inflammatory disease that can lead to premature mortality and reduce a person’s health and quality of life.¹

- Most patients with RA require continuous treatment to control flares and disease progression.²,³

- Appropriate treatment can prevent loss of function and improve patients’ quality of life.⁴

- Nonadherent populations have been shown to be at a higher risk of flare-up, and overall, they experience more frequent flares compared to those who were more adherent to therapy.⁵

- Improvements in RA medication adherence would be expected to moderate disease progression, reducing the utilization of medical services and the associated costs.⁶,⁷

- Two organizations tested the measure using commercial, Medicare and Medicaid data. The testing results found that rates varied between commercial, Medicare and Medicaid plans. The measure rates ranged from 47.8% to 67.0%, highlighting substantial opportunity for improvement.
• 0.01% - 0.06% of the total population were included in the denominator, depending on the line of business.

• The measure may be more suitable for Commercial and Medicaid lines of business, given the size of the populations impacted. For Medicare, where performance is measured at the more granular contract level, we anticipate a low number of contracts having a denominator greater than 30, which is the threshold needed to distinguish true difference in performance.

• The QMEP voted (16 yes; 3 no; 1 abstain) to recommend the measure to the PQA membership for endorsement consideration.

REFERENCES:


