

Appropriate Medication Use: Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (SUPD)

By working together, we can improve health outcomes for your patients, our members. Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) measures are used to assess prescription drug plans' quality and performance. Appropriate Medication Use measures are developed by the PQA and endorsed by the National Quality Forum. This tip sheet provides key details of the PQA appropriate medication use measure for Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (SUPD).

What Is the Measure?

This measure evaluates the percentage of members age 40 to 75 who filled at least two prescriptions for a diabetes medication and filled at least one statin prescription during the measurement year.

Exclusions

- Diagnosis of end-stage kidney disease
- Rhabdomyolysis or myopathy
- Cirrhosis
- Pre-diabetes
- Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)
- Pregnancy, lactation, or fertility
- Member in hospice

Denominator

Eligible population: Members age 40 to 75 with at least two prescription fills of a diabetes medication with different dates of service

Numerator

The number of members in the denominator who filled at least one prescription for a statin or statin combination during the measurement year

Statin Medications*

- Atorvastatin (+/- Amlodipine)
- Fluvastatin
- Lovastatin
- Pitavastatin
- Pravastatin
- Rosuvastatin (+/- Ezetimibe)
- Simvastatin (+/-Ezetimibe)

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Best Practices

- Encourage members to use their Florida Blue card at the pharmacy to generate pharmacy claims and capture member compliance.
- Reinforce the role and importance of statin therapy. Together, identify and resolve member-specific adherence barriers or concerns, such as the prescription's health benefits, side effects, cost, and timely refills.
- Statin use should always be accompanied by lifestyle modifications focused on diet and weight loss to improve a patient's lipid panel.

Notable Facts

The American Diabetes Association and American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) 2019 cholesterol guidelines recommend moderate-to-high intensity statins in type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus patients. For patients who do not tolerate the intended intensity of statin, the maximally tolerated statin dose should be used.

- High-intensity statin therapy will achieve about a 50% reduction in LDL cholesterol.
- Moderate-intensity statin regimens achieve 30–50% reductions in LDL cholesterol.
- Statin use in diabetic patients:
 - Decrease incidence of cardiovascular events by 21% per 39 mg/dL decrease in LDL
 - Decrease mortality by 9% per 39 mg/dL decrease in LDL

References

- PQAAlliance.org/Measures-Overview#SUPD
- CMS.gov/Files/Document/2024TechNotes20230929.pdf
- [2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines | Journal of the American College of Cardiology](#)
- [Cardiovascular Disease and Risk Management: Standards of Care in Diabetes—2024 | American Diabetes Association](#)