

# Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease

Improve your HEDIS<sup>1</sup> rates by using this tip sheet about the **Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease (SPC)** measure and best practices.

Percent of males ages 21–75 and females ages 40–75 who are identified as having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) during the measurement year. The measure has two rates that are reported:



**Measures**

Percent of males ages 21–75 and females ages 40–75 who are identified as having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) during the measurement year. The measure has two rates that are reported:

- 1 Received statin therapy.** Members who were dispensed at least one high-intensity or moderate-intensity statin medication during the measurement year. Pharmacy claims are used to record this measure.
- 2 Statin adherence 80%.** Members who stay on a high-intensity or moderate-intensity statin medication for at least 80% of the treatment period.

**Statin medications**

Description	Prescription
<b>High-intensity statin therapy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• atorvastatin 40–80 mg</li> <li>• amlodipine-atorvastatin<sup>2</sup> 40–80 mg</li> <li>• rosuvastatin 20–40 mg</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate-intensity statin therapy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amlodipine-atorvastatin<sup>2</sup> 10–20 mg</li> <li>• atorvastatin 10–20 mg</li> <li>• ezetimibe-simvastatin 20–40 mg</li> <li>• fluvastatin 40–80 mg</li> <li>• lovastatin 40 mg</li> <li>• pitavastatin<sup>2</sup> 2–4 mg</li> <li>• pravastatin 40–80 mg</li> <li>• rosuvastatin 5–10 mg</li> <li>• simvastatin 20–40 mg</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> HEDIS – Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set.  
<sup>2</sup> Non-preferred.

## Best practices

- Educate patients on the benefits of statin medication to prevent cardiovascular events.
- Educate and encourage patients to contact you if they think they are experiencing side effects.
- If a patient has had previous intolerance to statins, consider a statin rechallenge using a different moderate- to high-intensity statin. Hydrophilic statins, such as pravastatin, fluvastatin and rosuvastatin, may have lower risk of myalgia side effects.
- Document in the medical record patient conditions that exclude them from taking a statin and submit a claim with appropriate exclusion diagnosis code.
- Encourage patients to obtain 90-day supplies at their pharmacy once they demonstrate they tolerate statin therapy.
- Note: Sample medications given to patients will not count for the measure.

## Exclusions

- Patients who meet any of the following criteria anytime during the measurement year:
  - Patients ages 66 and older enrolled in an Institutional Special Needs Plan (I-SNP) or living long term in an institution.
  - Patients ages 66–80 with frailty and advanced illness.
  - Patients ages 81 and older with frailty.
  - Patients in hospice or palliative care.
  - Patients with pregnancy diagnosis.
  - Patients with myalgia, myositis, myopathy or rhabdomyolysis.
  - Patients who died.
- Patients who meet any of the following criteria anytime during the measurement year or year prior to the measurement year:
  - Patients with in vitro fertilization or dispensed at least one prescription for clomiphene.
  - Patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) or dialysis.
  - Patients with cirrhosis.
  - Patients dispensed dementia medication (see table below).

### Dementia medications

Description	Prescription
<b>Cholinesterase inhibitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• donepezil</li><li>• galantamine</li><li>• rivastigmine</li></ul>
<b>Miscellaneous central nervous system agents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• memantine</li></ul>
<b>Dementia combinations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• memantine-donepezil</li></ul>

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