

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the PQA Measure: “Proportion of Days Covered (PDC): 3 Rates” in the Quality Rating System for the Health Insurance Marketplace

Proportion of Days Covered (PDC): 3 Rates

- *Renin Angiotensin System Antagonists (RASA)*
- *Diabetes All Class*
- *Statins*

Q. Is the PDC threshold the same for each of the rates (Renin Angiotensin System Antagonists, Diabetes, and Statins)?

- A. Yes. The PDC threshold is 80% for each rate; therefore, patients with a PDC of 80% or greater are included in the numerator. Step 4 for each numerator should read: Count the number of patients who had a PDC of 80% or greater and then divide by the total number of eligible patients.

Q. When does a patient’s treatment period begin and end?

- A. The treatment period is defined as the time from the index prescription start date (IPSD), i.e., the date of the first fill for any target medication, through the last day of the measurement year, or until death or disenrollment, whichever occurs first. The treatment period must be at least 91 days long for the patient to be included in the measure denominator.

Q. Are there any enrollment requirements for the PDC – Three Rates measures?

- A. Patients must be continuously enrolled during the treatment period.
- Exclude patients who dis-enroll and re-enroll in the same plan more than one day later (i.e., > 1 day gap in enrollment) after a valid treatment period, but prior to the end of the measurement year.

Q. Are specific benefits required for patients to be included in the measures?

- A. The measures use pharmacy claims data for the data source, so patients must be enrolled in a plan with a prescription drug benefit to be included.

Q. How does a qualified health plan (QHP) obtain the NDC lists that support the measure calculations?

- A. QHPs can request the NDC files by completing the online request form, available from the PQA website at <http://pqaalliance.org/measures/qrs.asp>

Q. How are “days covered” calculated when a patient receives multiple prescriptions for the same target medication?

- A. If multiple prescriptions for the same target medication (i.e. one or more products with the same generic ingredient) are dispensed on the same day or different days where the days’ supply overlap, adjust the prescription start date to be the day after the days’ supply for previous fill has ended. Please refer to the measure definition for calculating number of days covered for the numerator.

Q. Should an adjustment be made to account for overlap when the patient has prescription fills for a single target drug and a combination product?

A. Overlap adjustment should also occur when there is an overlap of a single target drug product to a combination product containing the single target drug (i.e., same generic ingredient) or when there is an overlap of a combination product to another combination product where at least one of the target drugs (i.e., same generic ingredient) is common. Please refer to the measure definition for calculating number of days covered for the numerator.

Q. Is there an upper or lower age limit for the measures?

A. The eligible population includes patients 18 years and older as of the last day of the treatment period. There is no upper age limit for the measures.

Q. Are patients included in the measure if they receive a prescription for a medication in the therapeutic class for the measure?

A. Patients who filled AT LEAST TWO prescriptions on different dates of service during the treatment period are included in the measure denominator (assuming they meet all other criteria). Therefore:

- For the PDC – Renin Angiotensin System Antagonists (RASA) measure, the patient must fill at least two prescriptions for a RASA medication (see Table PDC-B: RAS Antagonists in the measure specifications) on different dates of service during the treatment period.
- For the PDC – Diabetes All Class measure, the patient must fill at least two prescriptions for any of the diabetes medications included in the measure (see Tables PDC-D, PDC-E, PDC-F, PDC-G, PDC-J, PDC-K, or PDC-L in the measure specifications) on different dates of service during the treatment period.
- For the PDC – Statins measure, the patient must fill at least two prescriptions for a statin medication (see Table PDC-I: Statin Medications in the measure specifications) on different dates of service during the treatment period.

Q. Are patients who use insulin included in the PDC – Diabetes All Class measure?

A. No. Patients who have one or more prescriptions for insulin in the treatment period are excluded from the measure.