

## HEDIS 2019 Exclusion for Advanced Illness, Frailty, and Living in Long Term Facility

Every year NCQA reviews, updates, and makes changes to the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS). This ensures that these measures are relevant and feasible for implementation.

**Excluding Members with Advanced Illness and Frailty:** Quality measures that were designed and intended for a general adult population may not always be appropriate for those with limited life expectancy or advanced illness and frailty. As such, NCQA is implementing cross-cutting exclusions across selected HEDIS measures to help focus on the population who are most likely to benefit from the measured services.

For HEDIS 2019, the following nine measures exclude individuals 65 and older who have an advanced illness and frailty or who live long-term in nursing home settings. Four of these measures also exclude those age 80 and older with frailty.

HEDIS measures applied with exclusion	Exclusions for members		
	≥65 with advanced illness <u>and</u> frailty	≥80 with frailty	≥65 living long-term facility (nursing home)
Breast Cancer Screening	X	N/A*	X
Colorectal Cancer Screening	X	N/A*	X
Controlling High Blood Pressure	X	X	X
Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture	X	X	X
Comprehensive Diabetes Care	X	N/A*	X
Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis	X	X	X
Persistence of Beta-Blocker Treatment After Heart Attack	X	X	X
Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	X	N/A*	X
Statin Therapy for Patients with Diabetes	X	N/A*	X

*N/A\* Measure does not include members age 80 and older.*

**Location:** To meet the exclusion criteria of living long term in an institutional setting, patients need to reside at least 90 days in the facility during the calendar year.

**Advanced Illness:** Cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal and malignant conditions are a few examples of advanced illness.

**Frailty:** Assistive devices such as canes, walkers or wheelchairs, durable medical equipment like hospital beds and commodes, and medical devices including portable oxygen and ventilators. Nursing services by Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and qualified nurses' aides, as are gait disturbances, weakness and malaise, falls and pressure ulcers indicate frailty.

### Q&A

**Q: Why should these populations be excluded from these selected measures?**

*A: By implementing these exclusions, the frail and advanced illness population can focus on care that's more appropriate for their conditions and health status.*

**Q: How will these exclusions help patients?**

*A: These exclusions help ensure that quality measures and all associated quality improvement efforts are focused on the population most likely to benefit from the specified service.*

**Q: How will the exclusions help health plans and providers improve care?**

*A: Refining the selected measures to exclude those with advanced illness allows plans and providers to focus improvement efforts for things like cancer screenings and disease-specific treatment and management on those patients most likely to benefit.*