



Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis (ART)

HEDIS measure overview

The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug (DMARD) Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis (ART) calculates the percentage of adult patients who were diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and who were dispensed at least one ambulatory prescription for a DMARD.

The 2015 American College of Rheumatology guidelines support the use of DMARDs in both early and established rheumatoid arthritis.¹

Information in this flyer is based on HEDIS technical specifications. It is not meant to preclude clinical judgment.

Who is included in ART?

Patients become eligible for this measure once they have had two visits with a diagnosis of RA. The visits must occur during the current measurement year from Jan. 1 to Nov. 30 and have two different dates of service. Patients are identified based on the claims submitted with an ICD-10 diagnosis code included in the current HEDIS rheumatoid arthritis value set. In addition to rheumatoid arthritis, this value set includes diagnosis codes for the following conditions—both unspecified site and site-specific codes:

- Rheumatoid heart disease with RA
- Rheumatoid lung disease with RA
- Rheumatoid vasculitis with RA
- Rheumatoid myopathy with RA
- Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with RA
- RA with involvement of other organs and systems
- Rheumatoid bursitis
- Rheumatoid nodule
- Felty's syndrome
- Adult-onset Still's disease

Exclusions

- Pregnant women
- Patients diagnosed with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Patients in hospice
- Patients 66 years old and older enrolled in an Institutional Special Needs Plan (I-SNP) or living long-term in an institutional setting
- Patients 66–80 years old with frailty and advanced illness
- Patients 81 years old and older with frailty

Performing well on ART

Eligible patients should be prescribed a DMARD and there must be evidence that the DMARD was dispensed (dispense date in the medical record) with at least one dispensed in an ambulatory setting. A current medical record from the current measurement year with proof of a dispensed DMARD may be submitted as supplemental data to address this care opportunity.

¹ www.rheumatology.org/Portals/0/Files/ACR%202015%20RA%20Guideline.pdf

When prescribing DMARDs for your patients with rheumatoid arthritis, please use your clinical judgment to determine if these drugs would be an effective treatment for your patient’s personal medical situation.

DMARDs in scope for ART

The table below contains the DMARDs included in the Star HEDIS measure. Note that the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has a comprehensive list of medications and National Drug Code (NDC) codes at www.ncqa.org.

For detailed formulary information, visit Humana.com/MedicareDrugList.

Description	Drug	HCPCS codes For drug therapy administered in the office
5-aminosalicylates	Sulfasalazine	N/A
Alkylating agents	Cyclophosphamide	N/A
Aminoquinolines	Hydroxychloroquine	N/A
Anti-rheumatics	Auranofin Leflunomide Methotrexate Penicillamine	N/A N/A J9250, J9260 N/A
Biologic response modifiers (immunomodulators)	Abatacept Adalimumab Anakinra Certolizumab pegol Etanercept Golimumab Infliximab Rituximab Sarilumab Tocilizumab	J0129 J0135 N/A J0717 J1438 J1602 J1745, Q5102, Q5103, Q5104, Q5109 J9310, J9311, J9312 N/A J3262
Immunosuppressive agents	Azathioprine Cyclosporine Mycophenolate	N/A J7502, J7515, J7516 J7517, J7518
Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor	Tofacitinib Baricitinib	N/A N/A
Tetracyclines	Minocycline	N/A
Based on 2020 Super National 5 MAPD 20457		

Measure best practices

- Confirm RA diagnosis versus osteoarthritis (OA) or joint pain
- Assess for DMARD therapy, if necessary
- Refer patients diagnosed with RA to a network rheumatologist as warranted
- Coordinate care and DMARD therapy with rheumatologists, as appropriate
- Complete and return a rheumatoid arthritis verification form for any patient diagnosed with RA who has not yet received a prescription for a DMARD
- Submit supplemental data such as a current measurement year medical record with proof of a dispensed DMARD