



One in a series of tip sheets that look at key 2019 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures, commonly referred to as HEDIS® measures.

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

Effectiveness of Care HEDIS® Measure

HEDIS measure definition

Patients ages 18 and older within the measurement year who were diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and filled at least one ambulatory prescription for a disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug in the current measurement year.

Exclusions from the HEDIS measure

Patients are excluded if they:

- Have a human immunodeficiency virus diagnosis.
- Have a pregnancy diagnosis during the current measurement year.
- Are a patient in hospice or living in a long-term institutional setting any time in the measurement year.
- Have an advanced illness and frailty:
 - Medicare members ages 66 to 80 with advanced illness in the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year **and** frailty in the measurement year are excluded when claims are received with advanced illness (includes dispensed dementia medication) and frailty codes.
 - Medicare members ages 81 and older with a frailty claim in the measurement year are also excluded.
 - See the *Advanced illness and frailty guide* for more information.

Sample rheumatoid arthritis ICD-10 frailty codes for ages 81 and older (not all inclusive)	
R26.2	Difficulty in walking, not otherwise classified
R26.89	Other abnormalities of gait and mobility
R26.9	Unspecified abnormalities of gait or mobility
R41.81	Age-related cognitive decline
R53.1	Weakness
R53.81	Other malaise
R53.83	Other fatigue
R54	Age-related physical debility

Sample rheumatoid arthritis ICD-10 frailty codes for ages 81 and older (not all inclusive)	
Z73.6	Limitations of activities due to disability
Z74.09	Other reduced mobility
Z91.81	History of falling
Z99.3	Dependence on a wheelchair
W01.0XXA – W01.198S	Falls
W06.XXXA – W10.9XXS	
W18.00XA – W19.XXXS	

Information patient medical records should include

- A diagnosis of RA only if confirmed through appropriate testing (often providers incorrectly code a diagnosis of osteoarthritis or joint pain as RA).
- The DMARD prescribed and the date it was prescribed. This must be a pharmacy claim. Medication samples when given could interfere with pharmacy claims and produce false non-adherence results.

DMARDs included in the HEDIS measure	
Description	Prescription
5-Aminosalicylates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sulfasalazine
Alkylating agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclophosphamide
Aminoquinolines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydroxychloroquine
Anti-rheumatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auranofin • Methotrexate • Leflunomide • Penicillamine
Immunomodulators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abatacept • Adalimumab • Anakinra • Certolizumab • Certolizumab pegol • Etanercept • Golimumab • Infliximab • Rituximab • Tocilizumab
Immunosuppressive agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azathioprine • Cyclosporine • Mycophenolate
Janus kinase inhibitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tofacitinib
Tetracyclines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minocycline

General tips

- Educate patients that a DMARD is the best treatment option, regardless of the severity or length of their RA diagnosis, unless contraindicated.
- Educate patients that they need to make at least two follow-up appointments a year after their initial diagnosis to monitor their disease, evaluate the effectiveness of their DMARD therapy and manage potential adverse RA events with an adjusted DMARD treatment.
- Refer patients to a rheumatologist if there is any question of the diagnosis and to assist with treatment as needed.

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.