Let's make a difference together.

Rheumatoid arthritis can have a profound effect on the overall health and wellness of individuals, as well as their abilities to perform necessary daily actions. That’s why it is important to ensure patients living with the condition receive appropriate care.

What is the quality measure?

This measure applies to patients who received two diagnoses of rheumatoid arthritis on different dates of service during either outpatient visits or non-acute inpatient discharges. And ensures they have received at least one disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) prescription.

What can you do to improve this quality measure?

You can help ensure patients living with rheumatoid arthritis receive quality care by:

+ Issuing and encouraging fill of prescriptions for DMARD medications for patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis:
  - DMARD monotherapy for early rheumatoid arthritis patients with low disease activity
  - DMARD combination therapy for early rheumatoid arthritis patients with moderate or high disease activity
  - A TNF blocker with or without methotrexate for early rheumatoid arthritis patients with high disease activity

+ Working to coordinate care with specialist providers, including, but not limited to, rheumatologists.

+ Using appropriate codes to indicate a confirmed diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis.

+ Ensuring claims with codes for rheumatoid arthritis are only submitted for diagnosed cases of the condition, not for cases of non-specific joint pain that may require additional testing.

Coding and Documentation Tips:

+ Submit claims and encounter data in a timely and accurate manner.

+ Complete and submit the Provider Assessment Form (PAF).

+ Complete the self-report section online within the Physician Quality Care Rewards tool in BlueAccess®.

continued on back
Remember to document and report all exclusions of members with a diagnosis of HIV at any time in their history or members with a diagnosis of pregnancy at any time during the measurement year.

ICD-10 Codes:
Rheumatoid diseases by morphology - M05.00-M06.39; M06.80-M06.9

Examples:
M05.061 - Felty’s syndrome, right knee
M05.541 - Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right hand

Anti-rheumatics
J1600 – Gold Sodium Thiomolate
J9250, J9260 – Methotrexate Immunomodulators
J0129 – Abatacept
J0135 – Adalimumab
J1438 – Etanercept
J0717 – Certolizumab pegol
J1602 – Golimumab
J1745 – Infliximab
J9310 – Rituximab
J3262 – Tocilizumab

Immunosuppressive Agents
J7502, J7515, J7516 – Cyclosporine
J7517, J7518 – Mycophenolate

Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) on the BlueCross Medicare Advantage formulary:
Actemra® (brand only) - Tier 5
Azathioprine - Tier 2
Cimzia® (brand only) - Tier 5
Cyclophosphamide oral capsule - Tier 4
Cyclosporine IV - Tier 2
Cyclosporine modified oral solution - Tier 2
Cyclosporine oral and modified oral capsule - Tier 4
Enbrel® (brand only) - Tier 5
Humira® (brand only) - Tier 5
Hydroxychloroquine oral tablet - Tier 2
Leflunomide oral tablet – Tier 2
Methotrexate sodium oral tablet – Tier 2
Methotrexate sodium (pf) IV solution - Tier 2
Minocycline oral capsule - Tier 2
Minocycline oral tablet 50 mg - Tier 2
Minocycline oral tablet 100 mg, 75 mg - Tier 4
Minocycline oral tablet extended release - Tier 2
Mycophenolate mofetil (oral capsule, tablet and suspension) - Tier 2
Mycophenolate sodium (oral tablet, delayed release) - Tier 2
Orencia® (brand only) - Tier 5
Remicade® (brand only) - Tier 5
Rituxan® (brand only) - Tier 5
Simponi/Simponi Aria® (brand only) - Tier 5
Sulfasalazine oral tablet and delayed release oral tablet - Tier 2
Xeljanz® (oral tablet brand only) - Tier 5