

2026

HEDIS® Advanced Illness and Frailty Exclusion Guide



Purpose

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) allows certain **HEDIS and STAR measure exclusions** for members with **advanced illness, frailty, or palliative care needs**. These exclusions recognize that some preventive or disease-management measures may offer limited benefit—or create unnecessary burden—for members with significant clinical complexity.



Who May Be Excluded

Members may be excluded from select HEDIS measures when claims data shows evidence of **advanced illness, frailty, or palliative care**, as defined by NCQA value sets.

Why it Matters



Advanced illness and frailty are important considerations in healthcare quality because they affect patient outcomes, care needs, and care delivery. NCQA recognizes that some HEDIS measures may not be appropriate for patients with these conditions. For that reason, certain measure exclusions are allowed.

Patients may be excluded when there is evidence of the following:

Advanced Illness (Exclusions may be identified in current or prior year claims.)	Either two indications of advanced illness on at least two different dates of service for severe chronic conditions such as emphysema, cirrhosis, leukemia, heart failure, dementia, and end-stage renal disease or a dispensed dementia medication.
Frailty (Must be identified in the measurement year.)	At least two indications of frailty with different dates of service during the measurement year for conditions such as pressure ulcers, durable medical equipment usage, or services such as home health and skilled nursing, which are indicators of limited mobility or physical functionality.
Palliative Care (Requires only one qualifying claim.)	Patients receiving palliative care.



Exclusions must be supported by valid claims data. Medical records alone cannot be used for advanced illness or frailty exclusions (except for palliative care).

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Applicable HEDIS Measure Exclusions

Exclusion Criteria	Applicable HEDIS Measures
Patients 66 years of age or older with both frailty and advanced illness by the end of the measurement year.	✓ Breast Cancer Screening (BCS-E) ✓ Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL-E) ✓ Eye Exam for Patients With Diabetes (EED) ✓ Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes (GSD)
Patients 66–80 years of age on Dec. 31 of the measurement year with both frailty and advanced illness by the end of the measurement year.	✓ Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP) ✓ Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes (KED)
Patients 67–80 years of age on Dec. 31 of the measurement year with both frailty and advanced illness by the end of the measurement year.	✓ Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW)
Patients 81 years of age or older with both frailty and advanced illness by the end of the measurement year.	✓ Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP) ✓ Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes (KED) ✓ Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW)
Patients receiving palliative care.	✓ Breast Cancer Screening (BCS-E) ✓ Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL-E) ✓ Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP) Eye ✓ Exam for Patients With Diabetes (EED) ✓ Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes (GSD) ✓ Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes (KED) ✓ Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW)



Coding and Documentation Requirements

- **Claims-based data only** is used to identify advanced illness and frailty exclusions.
- Acceptable encounters include in-person visits, telehealth and telephone appointments, and e-visit/virtual check-ins.
- Reduce medical record requests and improve submission accuracy by using **NCQA-approved ICD10, CPT, and HCPCS codes**.

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Codes must be billed in the measurement or prior year to exclude the patient from these STAR measures.

Advanced Illness	
ICD-10 Code	Definition
A81.00-01, A81.09	Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
C25.0-4, 7-9	Malignant neoplasm of pancreas
C71.0-9	Malignant neoplasm of brain
C77.0-5, 8-9	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph nodes
C78.00-2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of lung
C78.1	Secondary malignant neoplasm of mediastinum
C78.2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of pleura
C78.30, C78.39	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified or other respiratory organs
C78.4	Secondary malignant neoplasm of small intestine
C78.5	Secondary malignant neoplasm of large intestine and rectum
C78.6	Secondary malignant neoplasm of retroperitoneum and peritoneum
C78.7	Secondary malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile duct
C78.80, C78.89	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified or other digestive organs
C79.00-2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of kidney and renal pelvis
C79.10-1, C79.19	Secondary malignant neoplasm of bladder and other urinary organs
C79.2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of skin
C79.31	Secondary malignant neoplasm of brain
C79.32	Secondary malignant neoplasm of cerebral meninges
C79.40, C79.49	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified or other parts of nervous system
C79.51-2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of bone or bone marrow
C79.60-2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of ovary
C79.70-2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland
C79.81-2	Secondary malignant neoplasm of breast or genital organs
C79.89, C79.9	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified or other sites
C91.00, C92.00, C93.00, C93.90, C93. Z0, C94.30	Leukemia not having achieved remission
C91.02, C92.02, C93.02, C93.92, C93.Z2, C94.32	Leukemia in relapse
F01.50, F01.51, F02.80, F02.81, F03.90, F03.91, F10.27, F10.97, G31.09, G31.83	Dementia
F04	Amnestic disorder due to known physiological condition
F10.96	Alcohol-induced persisting amnestic disorder

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Advanced Illness	
ICD-10 Code	Definition
G30.0, G30.1, G30.8, G30.9	Alzheimer's disease
G10	Huntington's disease
G12.21	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
G20	Parkinson's disease
G31.01	Pick's disease
I09.81, I11.0, I13.0, I13.2,	Heart failure
I50.20, I50.21, I50.22, I50.23, I50.30, I50.31, I50.32, I50.33, I50.40, I50.41, I50.42, I50.43, I50.810, I50.811, I50.812, I50.813, I50.814, I50.82, I50.83, I50.84, I50.89, I50.9	
I12.0, I13.11, I13.2, N18.5	Chronic kidney disease, stage 5
I50.1	Left ventricular failure, unspecified
J43.0, J43.1, J43.2, J43.8, J43.9, J98.2, J98.3	Emphysema
J68.4	Chronic respiratory conditions due to chemicals, gases, fumes and vapors
J84.10, J84.112, J84.17, J84.170, J84.178	Pulmonary fibrosis
J96.10, J96.11, J96.12, J96.20, J96.21, J96.22, J96.90, J96.91, J96.92	Respiratory failure
K70.10, K70.11, K70.2, K70.30, K70.31, K70.40, K70.41, K70.9	Alcoholic hepatic disease
K74.0, K74.1, K74.2, K74.4, K74.5, K74.60, K74.69	Hepatic disease
L89.0-9	Pressure ulcer
N18.6	End stage renal disease

Dementia medications	
Description	Prescription
Cholinesterase inhibitors	• Donepezil • Galantamine • Rivastigmine
Miscellaneous central nervous system agents	• Memantine
Dementia Combinations	• Donepezil-memantine

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Frailty	
CPT Code	Definition
99504	Home visit for mechanical ventilation care
99509	Home visit for assistance with activities of daily living and personal care

Frailty	
HCPCS Code	Definition
E0100, E0105	Cane
E0130, E0135, E0140, E0141, E0143, E0144, E0147-9	Walker
E0163, E0165, E0167-71	Commode chair
E0424, E0425, E0430, E0431, E0433, E0434, E0435, E0439, E0440-4	Oxygen
E0462	Rocking bed with or without side rails
E0465, E0466	Home ventilator
E0470-2	Respiratory assist device
E0561, E0562	Humidifier used with positive airway pressure device
E1130, E1140, E1150, E1160, E1161, E1240, E1250, E1260, E1270, E1280, E1285, E1290, E1295-8	Wheelchair
G0162, G0299, G0300, G0493, G0494	Skilled RN services related to home health/hospice setting
S0271	Physician management of patient home care, hospice
S0311	Management and coordination for advanced illness
S9123, S9124, T1000-5, T1019-22, T1030, T1031	Nursing, respite care and personal care services

Frailty	
ICD-10 Code	Definition
L89.119, L89.139, L89.149, L89.159, L89.209, L89.309, L89.899, L89.90	Pressure Ulcer
M62.50	Muscle wasting and atrophy, not elsewhere classified, unspecified state
M62.81	Muscle weakness (generalized)
M62.84	Sarcopenia
R26.0	Ataxic gait
R26.2	Difficulty in walking, not elsewhere classified

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Frailty

ICD-10 Code	Definition
R26.89	Other abnormalities of gait and mobility
R26.9	Unspecified abnormalities of gait and mobility
R41.81	Age-related cognitive decline
R53.1	Weakness
R53.81	Other malaise
R53.83	Other fatigue
R54	Age-related physical debility
R62.7	Adult failure to thrive
R63.4	Abnormal weight loss
R63.6	Underweight
R64	Cachexia
W01.0XXA–W01.198S, W06.XXXA–W10.9XXS, W18.00XA–W19.XXXS	Fall
Y92.199	Unspecified place in other specified residential institution as the place of occurrence of the external cause
Z59.3	Problems related to living in residential institution
Z73.6	Limitation of activities due to disability
Z74.01	Bed confinement status
Z74.09	Other reduced mobility
Z74.1	Need for assistance with personal care
Z74.2	Need for assistance at home and no other household member able to render care
Z74.3	Need for continuous supervision
Z74.8	Other problems related to care provider dependency
Z74.9	Problem related to care provider dependency, unspecified
Z91.81	History of falling
Z99.11	Dependence on respirator [ventilator] status
Z99.3	Dependence on wheelchair
Z99.81	Dependence on supplemental oxygen
Z99.89	Dependence on other enabling machines and devices

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Reference

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). 2026. "Improving care for those with advanced illness and frailty." www.ncqa.org/blog/improving-care-advanced-illness-frailty/

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