



National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) recognizes instances where advanced illness and frailty influence a patient's function and overall quality of life. Some HEDIS measures do not apply to these patients when the service may be of little benefit to them. Therefore, NCQA implemented cross-cutting exclusions to remove patients with advanced illnesses and frailty from select measures.

These exclusions will remove patients from denominators on certain measures when the proper codes are submitted. This can be very helpful since many of these patients may have difficulty getting to office visits and facilities for medical screenings. These exclusions enable you, as a provider, to focus on care that is more relevant and beneficial for these patients' conditions, reducing unnecessary tests and/or treatments that provide limited benefit.

ADVANCED ILLNESS

Advanced illness can be indicated by chronic conditions, such as Alzheimer's, dementia, chronic kidney disease, heart failure, multiple sclerosis or certain malignant conditions. Claims criteria that identify patients with advanced illness may include one or more of the following:

- ▶ Two or more outpatient, observation, telephone visits, e-visits, or virtual check-ins emergency (ER) or non-acute inpatient encounters or discharges on separate dates of service with a diagnosis of advanced illness
- ▶ One or more acute inpatient encounters with a diagnosis of advanced illness
- ▶ One or more acute inpatient discharges with a diagnosis of advanced illness on a discharge claim
- ▶ Dispensed a dementia medication: Donepezil, Donepezil-Memantine combo, Galantamine, Memantine or Rivastigmine

FRAILITY

Frailty can be identified in a variety of ways. To qualify for frailty, the patient must have at least two claims with an indication of frailty. Here are some examples:

- ▶ Reduced mobility and use of devices to provide assistance such as canes, walkers and wheelchairs
- ▶ Hospital beds
- ▶ Medical equipment usage, including wheelchairs, hospital beds and portable oxygen
- ▶ Use of skilled and assisted care
- ▶ History of falls
- ▶ Pressure ulcers

The chart below outlines patient exclusions for specific Star/Quality measures.

STAR/QUALITY MEASURE EXCLUSIONS CRITERIA

In order to exclude a patient from the measures below, codes must be billed in the current measurement year or the year prior for advanced illness and in the current year for frailty.

Patients 66 and older can be excluded from the following measures when they have BOTH advanced illness and frailty:

- ▶ Breast Cancer Screening*
- ▶ Colorectal Cancer Screening*
- ▶ Controlling High Blood Pressure*
- ▶ Eye Exam for Patients with Diabetes
- ▶ HbA1c Control for Patients with Diabetes
- ▶ Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients with Diabetes
- ▶ Osteoporosis Screening in Older Women
- ▶ Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease

Patients age 81 and older who have frailty only can be excluded from these measures:

- ▶ Controlling High Blood Pressure
- ▶ Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients with Diabetes

***Note:** Quality measures listed are for the incentives offered through the Patrius Health Incentive Program.*

Use our Coding Guide on the next page for assistance in determining appropriate diagnosis codes for patients who fall into this category. With proper diagnosis coding, you can:

- ▶ Remove gaps in care for some patients who refuse screenings or treatments because they are too sick to comply
- ▶ Reduce unnecessary screening and testing
- ▶ Increase focus on care that is more appropriate for the patients' health status
- ▶ Improve management of patients and their treatment
- ▶ Reduce administrative burdens

For more comprehensive information on advanced illness and frailty exclusions, visit the [NCQA blog](#) on this topic.

Advanced Illness and Frailty Coding Guide

These codes are applicable for patients age 66 and older as of December 31 of the measurement year. Be sure to code to the highest level of specificity with guidance from your coding books.

Advanced Illness Diagnosis Codes

A81.00 – A81.09 Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

C25.0 – C71.9 Malignant neoplasm

C77.0 – C79.9 Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm

C91.00 – C94.32 Leukemia

F01.50 – F03.91 Dementia

F04 Amnesic disorder due to known physiological condition

F10 Alcohol-related disorders

G10 Huntington's disease

G12.21 Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

G20 Parkinson's disease

G30 Alzheimer's disease

G31 Other degenerative diseases of nervous system, not elsewhere classified

G35 Multiple sclerosis

I09.81 Rheumatic heart failure

I11.0 Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure

I12.0 Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 5 chronic kidney disease or end stage renal disease

I13 Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease

I50 Heart failure

J43.0 – J43.9, J98.2 – J98.3 Emphysema

J68.4 Chronic respiratory conditions due to chemicals, gases, fumes and vapors

J84 Other respiratory diseases principally affecting the interstitium

J96 Respiratory failure

K70 – K77 Diseases of the liver

L89 Pressure ulcer

N18.5 and N18.6 Chronic kidney disease

Frailty Diagnosis/HCPCS Codes

E0100 – E0105 Cane

E0130 – E0149 Walker

E0163 – E0171 Commode chair

E0250 – E0304 Hospital bed

E0424 – E0444 Oxygen system

E0462 Rocking bed with or without side rails

E0465 – E0466 Home ventilator

E0470 – E0472 Respiratory assist device

E1130 – E1298 Wheelchair

G0162, G0299, G0300, G0493, G0494 Skilled services in the home health or hospice setting

S0271 Physician management of patient home care, hospice monthly case rate (per 30 days)

S0311 Comprehensive management and care coordination for advanced illness, per calendar month

S9123 – S9124 Nursing care, in the home

L89 Pressure ulcer

M62 Other disorders of muscle

R53 Weakness and other malaise

R54 Age-related physical debility

R62.7 Adult failure to thrive

R63.4 Abnormal weight loss

R63.6 Underweight

R64 Cachexia

W01 Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling

W06 Fall from bed

W07 Fall from chair

W08 Fall from other furniture

W10 Fall on/from escalator, sidewalk, incline or other steps and stairs

W18 Other slipping, tripping and stumbling and falls

W19 Unspecified fall

Y92 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 Problems related to care provider dependency

Z91.81 History of falling

Z99 Dependence on enabling machines and devices, not elsewhere classified



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ICD-10 is the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), a medical classification list by the World Health Organization (WHO).