

PROVIDER TIPS TO BOOST PERFORMANCE AND ELEVATE PATIENT CARE: MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR CHOLESTEROL (STATINS)

Measure definition:

The percentage of patients who were adherent to their statin medications. A higher rate indicates better performance.

Measure compliance (numerator):

The number of patients 18 years or older with a proportion of days covered (PDC) of 80% or more for their statin medication during the measurement year.

Measure population (denominator):

The number of patients 18 years or older with two or more prescription claims for their statin medication with different dates of service and a treatment period of 91 or more days during the measurement year.

Measure Medications: Generic and Brand Names

- atorvastatin (Lipitor, Caduet*)
- fluvastatin (Lescol XL)
- lovastatin (Mevacor, Altoprev)
- pitavastatin (Livalo, Zypitamag)
- pravastatin (Pravachol)
- rosuvastatin (Crestor, Ezallor, Roszet*)
- simvastatin (Zocor, Vytorin*)

*Combination medication containing a statin



MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR CHOLESTEROL (STATINS) *Continued*

Exclusions

- Hospice care services at any time during the measurement year
- An end-stage renal disease (ESRD) diagnosis or dialysis covered days at any time during the measurement year

Exclusion Codes (ICD-10-CM)

- ESRD: I12.0, I13.11, I13.2, N18.5, N18.6, N19, Z91.15, Z99.2

Provider Tips and Best Practices

1. Discuss with patients the importance of taking their medications as prescribed.
2. Write for 100-day supplies of chronic medications for greater convenience and fewer pharmacy trips.
3. Support medication adherence by reminding patients about refill synchronization, auto-refill and mail-order options.
 - SortPak Pharmacy provides synchronized medication delivery and organizes medications into pouches sorted by day and time at no additional cost. For more information, call **1-877-570-7787** or visit sortpak.com. Prescriptions may be faxed to **877-475-2382** or e-prescribed to NCPDP/NABP 0524733.
4. Review the patient's medication list to identify and remove duplicate or inactive prescriptions before initiating or adjusting therapy.
5. Complete patient outreach to address adherence barriers, prescription renewals and side effect concerns.
6. Consider switching to a different statin medication or reducing the dose or frequency if patients are experiencing adverse effects.
7. Consolidate medications into single-pill combination therapies to reduce pill burden when possible.
8. Instruct patients to fill prescriptions using their Medicare Part D pharmacy benefit, especially when utilizing discount programs. Gap closure is dependent on Medicare Part D pharmacy claims.
9. To exclude patients from this measure, claims must be submitted **annually** using the appropriate ICD-10-CM code.

MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR CHOLESTEROL (STATINS) *Continued*

Did You Know?

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Five-Star Quality Rating System assesses medication adherence for certain classes of chronic medications.
- Members are deemed adherent when the proportion of days in the measurement period covered by prescription claims for medications in the therapeutic category is at least 80%.
- Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of mortality in the United States, with 131 million adults (48.9%) having at least one form of cardiovascular disease.
- The American College of Cardiology (ACC) and American Heart Association (AHA) recommend statin therapy as first-line treatment to reduce the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) events.

References

1. Medicare 2026 Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Center for Medicare. Updated September 25, 2025.
2. Palaniappan LP, Allen NB, Almarzooq ZI, et al. 2026 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics: A Report of US and Global Data From the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2026;153(9):e275-e906. doi:10.1161/CIR.0000000000001412
3. Writing Committee Members, Blumenthal RS, Morris PB, et al. 2026 ACC/AHA/AACVPR/ABC/ACPM/ADA/AGS/APhA/ASPC/NLA/PCNA Guideline on the Management of Dyslipidemia: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Circulation*. Published online March 13, 2026. doi:10.1161/CIR.0000000000001423

