

PROVIDER TIPS TO BOOST PERFORMANCE AND ELEVATE PATIENT CARE: MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR DIABETES MEDICATIONS

Measure definition:

The percentage of patients who were adherent to their diabetes 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 diabetes medications during the measurement year.

Measure population (denominator):

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

Common Measure Medications: Generic and Brand Names*

■ **Biguanides**

- metformin (Glumetza, Riomet, Glucophage)

■ **Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors**

- sitagliptin (Januvia)
- alogliptin (Nesina)
- linagliptin (Tadjenta)

■ **Gastric inhibitory polypeptides/ glucagon-like peptide-1 (GIP/GLP-1) receptor agonists**

- semaglutide (Ozempic, Rybelsus, Wegovy)
- dulaglutide (Trulicity)
- tirzepatide (Mounjaro)



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MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR DIABETES MEDICATIONS *Continued*

■ Meglitinides

- repaglinide (Prandin)
- nateglinide (Starlix)

■ Sodium glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors

- empagliflozin (Jardiance)
- canagliflozin (Invokana)
- dapagliflozin (Farxiga)

■ Sulfonylureas

- glipizide (Glucotrol)
- glimepiride (Amaryl)
- glyburide (Glynase)

■ Thiazolidinediones

- pioglitazone (Actos)

* Combination medications with these active ingredients are also included

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
- One or more prescriptions for insulin during the treatment period

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.

MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR DIABETES MEDICATIONS *Continued*

5. Complete patient outreach to address adherence barriers, prescription renewals and side effect concerns.
6. Consider switching to a different diabetes medication or reducing the dose or frequency if patients are experiencing adverse effects.
7. Consolidate medications into single-pill combination therapies (e.g., Synjardy, Xigduo, Janumet) 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 pharmacy claims.
9. To exclude patients from this measure, claims must be submitted **annually** using the appropriate ICD-10-CM code.

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%.

References

1. Medicare 2026 Part C & D Star Ratings Technical Notes. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Center for Medicare. Updated September 25, 2025.

