

PROVIDER TIPS TO BOOST PERFORMANCE AND ELEVATE PATIENT CARE: MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR HYPERTENSION (RAS ANTAGONISTS)

Measure definition:

The percentage of patients who were adherent to their renin-angiotensin system (RAS) antagonists. 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 RAS antagonist medication during the measurement year.

Measure population (denominator):

The number of patients 18 years or older with two or more prescription claims for their RAS antagonist medication 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

■ **Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEI)**

- benazepril (Lotensin, Lotrel*)
- enalapril (Vasotec)
- fosinopril (Monopril)
- lisinopril (Prinivil, Zestril, Zestoretic*)
- moexipril (Univasc)
- perindopril (Aceon)
- quinapril (Accupril)
- ramipril (Altace)
- trandolapril (Mavik)



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■ Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARB)

- candesartan (Atacand)
- irbesartan (Avapro)
- losartan (Cozaar, Hyzaar*)
- olmesartan (Benicar, Azor*)
- telmisartan (Micardis, Twynsta*)
- valsartan (Diovan, Diovan HCT*)

■ Direct renin inhibitors (DRI)

- aliskiren (Tekturna)

* Combination medication containing a measure medication

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 sacubitril/valsartan (Entresto) 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.

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5. Complete patient outreach to address adherence barriers, prescription renewals and side effect concerns.
6. Consider switching to a different RAS antagonist 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 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.

