



Advanced Illness and Frailty Exclusions — 2025

HEDIS® is a widely used set of performance measures developed and maintained by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). These are used to drive improvement efforts surrounding best practices.

- HEDIS 2025 targets optimizing care for advanced illness and frailty patients.
- Exclusions were implemented to focus care more appropriately on the patient's health status.
- Frailty and advanced illness measures apply to various medical realms, from cancer to diabetes.

Purpose

For those with limited life expectancy or advanced illness, the services featured in some measures may not be relevant or in line with the patient's goals of care. By implementing these exclusions, this population can focus on more appropriate care for their conditions and health status (for example, improving care transitions, getting follow-up after acute care episodes, or avoiding preventable hospitalizations). Exclusions also aim to ensure that frail older adults are not burdened with unnecessary tests or treatments that would help them little and may even pose harm.

For more information visit tinyurl.com/2kursw8r.

Definitions

Advanced illness

This is a severe chronic condition that causes general health and function decline.

Frailty

This refers to limited mobility or physical functional impairment that may require the use of durable medical equipment.

How are patients excluded?

Frailty

This includes at least two indications of frailty with different service dates during 2025. Do not include laboratory claims (claims with POS code 81).

Advanced illness

Any of the following meet the criteria during 2024 and 2025. Do not include laboratory claims (claims with POS code 81):

- At least two outpatient visits, observation visits, emergency department visits, telephone visits, e-visits, virtual check-ins, or non-acute inpatient discharges (the diagnosis must be on the discharge claim) with an advanced illness diagnosis, which occur on different dates of service. The visit type does not need to be the same for the two visits.

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- At least one visit must be an acute inpatient encounter with an advanced illness diagnosis on the discharge claim.
- At least one visit must be an acute inpatient discharge with an advanced illness diagnosis on the discharge claim.
- A dispensed dementia medication:
 - Cholinesterase inhibitors (donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine)
 - Miscellaneous central nervous system agents (memantine)
 - Dementia combinations (donepezil-memantine)

Note: Exclusions for advanced illness, frailty, and dispensed dementia medications must come from claims.

Applicable Measures

Advanced Care Planning (ACP)	66 to 80 years of age* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years old and older* with frailty
Breast Cancer Screening (BCS-E)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness
Blood Pressure Control for Patients With Diabetes (BPD)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness
Blood Pressure Control for Patients With Hypertension (BPC-E)	66 to 80 years of age* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years old and older* with frailty
Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL-E)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness
Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP)	66 to 80 years of age* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years old and older* with frailty
Cardiac Rehabilitation (CRE)	66 to 80 years of age* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years old and older* with frailty
Eye Exam for Patients With Diabetes (EED)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness
Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes (GSD)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness
Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes (KED)	66 to 80 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years of age and older* with frailty
Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain (LBP)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness
Osteoporosis Management In Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW)	67 to 80 years of age* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years old and older* with frailty
Osteoporosis Screening in Older Women (OSW)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness
Persistence of Beta-Blocker Treatment After a Heart Attack (PBH)	66 to 80 years of age* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years old and older* with frailty
Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications for Individuals With Schizophrenia (SAA)	66 to 80 years of age* with frailty and advanced illness or 81 years old and older* with frailty
Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease (SPC)	66 years of age and older* with frailty and advanced illness

Examples (lists not inclusive)

Advanced Illness	Frailty
Alcoholic fibrosis and cirrhosis of the liver	Ataxic gait
Alzheimer's disease	Cane, walker, wheelchair*
Chronic and acute heart failure, various stages	Commode chair*
Chronic renal disease	Dependence on enabling machines and devices
Chronic respiratory failure	Difficulty in walking
Dementia	Falls
Emphysema	Home ventilator
Hepatitis	Hospital bed*
Hypertensive heart disease	Nursing care in home
Leukemia	Portable and stationary oxygen*
Malignant neoplasms of specific sites	Pressure ulcer
Parkinson's disease	Private duty nursing
Pulmonary fibrosis	Registered nurse (RN) skilled services
Rheumatic heart failure	Weight loss or underweight
	*Requires a prescription. Medical equipment must be billed during 2025.

Let's Work Together

Contact your provider relationship management representative for a complete list of advanced illness diagnoses and/or frailty codes.

With your help, we can continually build towards a future of shared success.

Please visit **My Diverse Patients** for additional information about eLearning experiences on provider cultural competency and health equity.

<https://bluecrossnc.com/providers/networks-programs/blue-medicare/healthy-blue-medicare>



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