

HEDIS TIPS:

Rheumatoid Arthritis Management

MEASURE DESCRIPTION

Patients 18 years of age and older who were diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and who were dispensed at least one DMARD prescription during the measurement year.

Exclusions: Diagnosis of HIV any time during the member's history.
Diagnosis of pregnancy during the measurement year.

USING CORRECT BILLING CODES

Codes to Identify Rheumatoid Arthritis	
Description	ICD-9 Code
Rheumatoid Arthritis	714.0, 714.1, 714.2, 714.81

HOW TO IMPROVE HEDIS SCORES

- Confirm RA versus osteoarthritis (OA) or joint pain.
- Prescribe DMARDs when diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis in your patients.
- Refer to current American College of Rheumatology standards/guidelines.
- Refer patients to network rheumatologists as appropriate for consultation and/or co-management.
- Audit a sample of charts of members identified as having rheumatoid arthritis to assess accuracy of coding.
- Usual ratio of OA:RA = 9:1
- Aggressive risk adjustment can overstate RA vs. OA.