BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY

Excess Days in Acute Care after Hospitalization for Pneumonia

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) collects quality data from our providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive. Excess Days in Acute Care (EDAC) after Hospitalization for Pneumonia is one aspect of care we measure in our quality programs. Quality measures evaluate a prior calendar year performance.

What We Measure

We capture the days our Original Medicare (fee-for-service) members age 65 and older spend in acute care within 30 days of discharge from an inpatient hospitalization for pneumonia. We measure:

- Emergency department (ED) visits
- Observation stays
- Unplanned readmissions

EDAC after hospitalization for pneumonia is a National Quality Forum (NQF) measure. See **NQF** and the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** for more details.

Why It Matters

Adults age 65 and older are at higher risk of severe illness from pneumonia, according to the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. More than 40,000 people die from pneumonia every year in the U.S., and there are more than 1 million inpatient hospitalizations for pneumonia. Safely transitioning people from hospital to home can involve communication between providers, preventing and responding to complications, patient education and timely follow-up, according to **CMS**. Suboptimal transitions can contribute to additional ED visits, observation stays and hospital readmissions. Measuring adverse events after discharge provides a fuller picture to help improve health outcomes.

Eligible Population

Original Medicare members age 65 and older who were hospitalized at non-federal acute care hospitals for pneumonia are included in this measure.

Exclusions: Admissions are excluded from this measure when the member is:

- Enrolled in Original Medicare less than 30 days after discharge
- Discharged against medical advice
- Admitted within 30 days of a previous discharge that is already being measured

Tips to Consider

- Use an electronic health information exchange and alerts to help manage members' information.
- Discuss with our members how to manage pneumonia when they are discharged from a hospital. Follow up with them after discharge.
- Document follow-up care thoroughly and submit appropriate coding. Submit claims in a timely manner.
- Educate inpatient and outpatient providers about this measure and health outcomes after discharge.

How to Document

Data for this measure is collected from claims data.

Questions?

Contact your BCBSTX Network Representative.