

# MEDICATION ADHERENCE FOR HYPERTENSION (RAS ANTAGONISTS)

Measurement Specifications for Star Ratings Program



## Measurement Description

Percent of patients with a prescription for a blood pressure medication who fill their prescriptions often enough to cover 80% or more of the time they are supposed to be taking the medication.

## Measurement Source

Pharmacy Quality Alliance

## Denominator

Patients 18 years of age or older as of the last day of the measurement period who filled at least two prescriptions for any of the Renin Angiotensin System (RAS) Antagonist blood pressure medications on two unique dates of service in the measurement period. Members are only included in the measure calculation if the first fill of their medication occurs at least 91 days before the end of the measurement year.

Blood Pressure medications include: ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitor, ARB (angiotensin receptor blocker), a direct renin inhibitor, or ACEI/ARB/Direct Renin Inhibitor Combination products.

## Numerator

Patients with a prescription for a Renin Angiotensin System (RAS) Antagonist blood pressure medication who fill their prescriptions often enough to cover 80% or more of the time they are supposed to be taking their medications.

## Exclusion Criteria

Sacubitril/Valsartan	Patients with at least on fill of sacubitril/valsartan are excluded from the PDC calculation.
End Stage Renal Disease	Patients with ESRD can be identified using the ICD-9 code 585.6, ICD-10 code N18.6, and/or by the RxHCC 121 -Dialysis Status

## Notes

- The calculation will adjust for stays in inpatient (IP) settings and hospice enrollments. Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) stays are not adjusted.
- Measure is based on pharmacy claims data; at present there is no exclusion criteria to account for prescriber discontinuation of an agent for appropriate clinical reasons after the first two fills of the measurement period.

## Best Practice

- Develop a culture (i.e. protocol) of 90-day prescriptions and refills
- Reduce the number of daily doses of medications (i.e. BID, TID, QID); if at all possible, prescribe once daily medications.
- Educate patients on the importance of medication adherence
- Frequent clinic visits (every 2 months)

## Star Ratings Performance Thresholds MA-PD

Year	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS
2014	< 68%	≥ 68% to < 72%	≥ 72% to < 75%	≥ 75% to < 79%	≥ 79%
2015	< 72%	≥ 72% to < 76%	≥ 76% to < 81%	≥ 81% to < 85%	≥ 85%
2016	< 58%	≥ 58% to < 73%	≥ 73% to < 77%	≥ 77% to < 81%	≥ 81%
2017	< 71 %	≥ 71 % to < 75 %	≥ 75 % to < 79 %	≥ 79 % to < 83 %	≥ 83 %
2018	< 74%	≥ 74% to < 78%	≥ 78% to < 82%	≥ 82% to < 85%	≥ 85%
2019	< 72%	≥ 72 % to < 78%	≥ 78% to < 81%	≥ 81% to < 85%	≥ 85%
2020	< 80%	≥ 80% to < 84%	≥ 84% to < 87%	≥ 87% to < 89%	≥ 89%
2021	< 80%	≥ 80% to < 84%	≥ 84% to < 87%	≥ 87% to < 89%	≥ 89%