



HEDIS® MEASURE: USE OF IMAGING STUDIES FOR LOW BACK PAIN (LBP)

Gold Coast Health Plan's goal is to help its providers gain compliance with their annual Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) scores. This tip sheet will provide the key components to the HEDIS® measure, "Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain (LBP)."

Measure Description: Measures the percentage of members between the ages of 18 and 50 who received a primary diagnosis of low back pain and who did not have an imaging study (plain X-ray, MRI, CT Scan) within 28 days of the diagnosis.

This measure is reported as an inverted rate, where the higher score indicates appropriate treatment of low back pain and represents the proportion for which imaging studies did not occur.

Inclusive criteria:

In order to be included in the measure, one of the following must occur:

- ▶ Outpatient visit with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain.
- ▶ Observation visit with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain. Observation visits that result in an inpatient stay do not count for inclusion into this measure.
- ▶ ED visit with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain. ED visits that result in an inpatient stay do not count for inclusion into this measure.
- ▶ Osteopathic or chiropractic manipulative treatment with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain.
- ▶ Physical therapy visit with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain.
- ▶ Telephone visit with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain.
- ▶ Online assessment with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain.

Required exclusions:

Members who also had one of the following conditions, 180 days prior to diagnosis of low back pain, are excluded from this measure:

- ▶ Cancer
- ▶ Recent trauma
- ▶ Intravenous drug use
- ▶ Neurologic impairment
- ▶ HIV
- ▶ Spinal infection
- ▶ Major organ transplant
- ▶ Prolonged use of corticosteroids

Codes used to identify uncomplicated low back pain

| Description | ICD-10-CM |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Uncomplicated low back pain | M47.26, M47.27, M47.28, M47.816, M47.817, M47.818, M47.896, M47.897, M47.898, M48.06, M48.07, M48.08, M51.16, M51.17, M51.26, M51.27, M51.36, M51.37, M51.86, M51.87, M53.2X6, M53.2X7, M53.2X8, M53.3, M53.86, M53.87, M53.88, M54.16, M54.17, M54.18, M54.30, M54.31, M54.32, M54.40, M54.41, M54.42, M54.5, M54.89, M54.9, M99.03, M99.04, M99.23, M99.33, M99.43, M99.53, M99.63, M99.73, M99.83, M99.84, S33.100A, S33.100D, S33.100S, S33.110A, S33.110D, S33.110S, S33.120A, S33.120D, S33.120S, S33.130A, S33.130D, S33.130S, S33.140A, S33.140D, S33.140S, S33.5XXA, S33.6XXA, S33.8XXA, S33.9XXA, S39.002A, S39.002D, S39.002S, S39.012A, S39.012D, S39.012S, S39.092A, S39.092D, S39.092S, S39.82XA, S39.82XD, S39.82XS, S39.92XA, S39.92XD, S39.92XS |



Codes used to identify type of clinic encounter

| Description | CPT | With or Without Telehealth Modifier | HCPCS | UBREV |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Outpatient | 99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, 99341-99345, 99347-99450, 99381-99387, 99391-99397, 99401-99404, 99411, 99412, 99429, 99455, 99456 | -95 -GT | G0402, G0438, G0439, G0463, T1015 | 0510-0517, 5019-0523, 0526-0529, 0982, 0983 |
| Observation | 99217-99220 | | | |
| ED | 99281-99285 | | | 0450-0452, 0456, 0459, 0981 |
| Osteopathic or Chiropractic | 98925-98929, 98940-98942 | | | |
| Physical Therapy | 97110-97113, 97124, 97140, 97161-97164 | | | |
| Telephone Visit | 98966-98968, 99441-99443 | | | |
| Online Assessment | 98696, 99444 | | | |

Ways to improve your overall HEDIS® score:

- ▶ Document well.
- ▶ Use proper coding.
- ▶ This is an inverted measure, so make sure the imaging study is medically necessary.
- ▶ Where an imaging study is not necessary, evaluate medications, refer to pain management or refer to therapy where appropriate.

For additional information on specific HEDIS® measures, please visit the websites for the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\)](#) or the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#).

Effective January 1, 2014, NCQA replaced the coding tables with “value sets” which contain all applicable codes that can be used to identify a specific service or condition included in any measure. Detailed information on the data sets and technical specifications can be found [here](#).

GCHP does not intend this information to be medical advice, but a tool to assist in compliance with the HEDIS® measures.