



Pharmacotherapy Management of COPD Exacerbation (PCE)

PCE Measure Description¹

Assesses chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) exacerbations for adults 40 years of age and older who had appropriate medication therapy to manage an exacerbation. A COPD exacerbation is defined as an inpatient or ED visit with a primary discharge diagnosis of COPD.

Why is PCE Important?¹

Approximately 15 million adults in the United States have COPD, an irreversible disease that limits airflow to the lungs. COPD exacerbations or “flare-ups” make up a significant portion of the costs associated with the disease. However, symptoms can be controlled with appropriate medication. Appropriate prescribing of medication following exacerbation can prevent future flare-ups and drastically reduce the costs of COPD.

Best Practices

- ✓ Schedule follow up appointments after discharge.
- ✓ Educate patients on how to manage disease by recognizing the signs of a flare-up.
- ✓ Checking if patients have any barriers that prevent them from filling or getting their prescriptions.
- ✓ Checking status of annual vaccinations such as pneumococcal or flu vaccinations.

Numerator Compliance²

Rate 1: Systemic Corticosteroid - Dispensed prescription for systemic corticosteroid on or 14 days after the episode date. Count systemic corticosteroids that are active on the relevant date.

Rate 2: Bronchodilator - Dispensed prescription for a bronchodilator on or 30 days after the episode date. Count bronchodilators that are active on the relevant date.

Numerator Codes²

Refer to next page for the list of medications.

Data Collection Method²

Administrative (Claims)



Trillium Percentages/NCQA National Averages¹

| PCE | Calendar Year | Trillium | NCQA National Average |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Rate 1: Systemic Corticosteroid | 2022 | 62.6 | 70.8 |
| | 2021 | 40.3 | 69.9 |
| Rate 2: Bronchodilator | 2022 | 71.8 | 84.6 |
| | 2021 | 22.8 | 84.3 |

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¹ Source: [ncqa.org/hedis/measures](https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures)

² Source: HEDIS MY 2024 Tech Specs Manual Vol. 2

PCE Numerator Medications²

| Description | Prescription | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Glucocorticoids | Cortisone Dexamethasone Hydrocortisone | Methylprednisolone Prednisolone Prednisone |
| Anticholinergic agents | Acidinium bromide Ipratropium | Tiotropium Umeclidinium |
| Beta 2-agonists | Albuterol Arformoterol Formoterol Indacaterol | Levalbuterol Metaproterenol Olodaterol Salmeterol |
| Bronchodilator combinations | Albuterol-ipratropium Budesonide-formoterol Fluticasone furoate-umeclidinium- vilanterol Fluticasone-salmeterol Fluticasone-vilanterol | Formoterol-acidinium Formoterol-glycopyrrolate Formoterol-mometasone Glycopyrrolate-indacaterol Olodaterol-tiotropium Umeclidinium-vilanterol |

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