

CarePartners of Connecticut's Star Measure Tip Sheets outline key features of specific Medicare Star Rating program measures. These best practices and tips can optimize Star Ratings and identify opportunities to improve patient care.



Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (SUPD)*

The SUPD measure assesses the percentage of Medicare Part D beneficiaries 40-75 years of age who were dispensed at least two diabetes medications and received a statin medication of any intensity using their Medicare Part D benefit during the measurement year.

Provider Tips and Best Practices

- **Prescribe** at least one statin medication to patients diagnosed with diabetes.
- **Educate** patients on the purpose and value of statin medications, regardless of LDL levels.
- **Discuss** with patients the importance of taking medications as prescribed and how to manage potential side effects.
- Once patients demonstrate tolerance of statins, **prescribe** a 90-day quantity with three refills, and encourage patients to obtain 90-day supplies through their retail or mail-order pharmacies.
- **Consider** adding directives for pharmacies to run prescriptions through patients' Medicare Part D pharmacy benefits — especially when utilizing discount programs.
- **Instruct** patients to fill prescriptions through their Medicare Part D pharmacy benefit, where medications often cost less.
- **Remind** patients to contact their practitioner if experiencing medication adverse effects.
- **Consider** a different statin or reduce dose or frequency for patients experiencing adverse effects.
- **Review** and document all medications and supplements with patients during each visit.
- When possible, **remove** medications that are no longer needed or reduce dosages.
- To help boost adherence, **update** active prescriptions to align with how patients take their statins.

Exclusions

- Hospice enrollment during the measurement year
- ESRD diagnosis or dialysis coverage dates
- Rhabdomyolysis or myopathy or adverse effects of statin therapy in the measurement year
- Pregnancy, lactation, and fertility treatment
- Cirrhosis
- Pre-diabetes
- Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)

Note: To exclude patients who cannot tolerate statin medications, submit claims annually using the appropriate ICD-10-CM code.

* SUPD is not an NCQA HEDIS® measure. SUPD is included in the Medicare Star Rating Program from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (cont.)

Did you know?

- **Patients with diabetes** have an increased prevalence of lipid abnormalities, which contributes to increased risk of cardiovascular disease.
- **Statins protect** against heart attack and stroke by lowering the amount of cholesterol made in the liver – helping to remove LDL (“bad”) cholesterol and raising HDL (“good”) cholesterol.
- The American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) and the American Diabetes Association guidelines recommend using statins in patients with diabetes for **cardiovascular risk reduction**.

Additional Resources

- Journal of the American College of Cardiology’s [2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)
- US Preventive Services Task Force’s Recommendation Statement for [Statin Use for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Adults](#)
- Diabetes Care’s [Cardiovascular Disease and Risk Management: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes – 2022](#)