

Global Capitation Payments Result in the Highest-Quality Primary Care for Seniors: Methodology

Methodology

The following quality measures from the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) – based on data from claims, encounters, and other sources – were analyzed for UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage (UHC MA) enrollees in 2018.

- For all enrollees: Breast Cancer Screening (women), Colorectal Cancer Screening
- For enrollees with diabetes: Blood Sugar Controlled, Eye Exam
- For individuals enrolled in Special Needs Plans, which are limited to Medicare beneficiaries who have a chronic condition, receive long-term care, or have Medicaid coverage: Functional Status Assessment, Medication Review

Ninety-seven percent of UHC MA enrollees had a primary care physician that was assigned to one of the three payment categories: Fee-for-service (FFS), FFS plus value, or global capitation. The global capitation category includes OptumCare physician practices and practices not owned or operated by UnitedHealth Group. For physicians in group practices, health plan payments are categorized at the practice level.

This analysis shows raw quality scores. The findings were validated through a risk-adjusted analysis based on matched cohorts.

The brief is available at: www.uhg.com/global-capitation-research.