

Advanced Illness and Frailty (AI/F)

Why it Matters

Many HEDIS measures are based on clinical practice guidelines that apply to general or older adult populations. For those with limited life expectancy or advanced illness, the services identified in some measures may not be relevant to, or in line with, the patient's care goals. What is meaningful or most important for patients and providers is coordinated care to support maintaining function and quality of life in the face of declining health.¹

Description of Exclusion

Patients with frailty and/ or advanced illness are excluded from specific measures because of their conditions and health status. Excluding these patients will help ensure they are included with only the appropriate measures for their circumstances. The measures below require exclusions for advanced illness and frailty. The age ranges and requirements differ by measure and are included in the table below.

Applicable Measure	Frailty and Advanced Illness Both Required	Frailty Only
(BCS) Breast Cancer Screening	66 +	
(CBP) Controlling Blood Pressure	66 – 80	81 +
(COL) Colorectal Cancer Screening	66 +	
(HBD) Hemoglobin A1c Control for Patients with Diabetes	66 +	
(LBP) Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain	66 +	
(SPC) Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	66 +	



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Advanced Illness	<p>Patients with Advanced Illnesses are 66 years of age and older (varies by measure) as of December 31, 2023, may be eligible for this exclusion based on any of the following during 2022 or 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two or more outpatient, observation, emergency room, telephone, e-visits, virtual check-ins or non-acute inpatient encounters or discharge(s) on separate dates of service with a diagnosis of advanced illness ■ One or more acute inpatient encounter(s) with a diagnosis of advanced illness ■ One or more acute inpatient discharge(s) with a diagnosis of advanced illness on the discharge claim ■ Dispensed a dementia medication: donepezil, donepezil-memantine, galantamine, rivastigmine or memantine
Common Advanced Illness Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respiratory – emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis, acute respiratory failure ■ Renal – CKD stage V or ESRD ■ Hypertensive Heart Disease with heart failure ■ Heart Disease – chronic or acute heart failure ■ Hepatic – hepatitis or cirrhosis ■ Neurologic – Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s ■ Malignancy – primary (pancreatic, leukemia) and secondary (lung, lymph nodes)
Frailty	<p>There must be at least two indications of frailty with two (2) different dates of service during the measurement year.</p> <p>Patients with Frailty must be 66 years of age and older (varies by measure) as of December 31, 2023 and have Advanced Illness. Three measures (CBP, KED, OMW) exclude patients 81 years of age and older as of December 31, 2023, with Frailty only.</p>
Common Frailty Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Durable Medical Equipment (DME) – cane, walker, hospital bed, oxygen, etc. ■ Home Care – Skilled nursing, private duty nursing, home health aide ■ Pressure ulcers ■ Musculoskeletal – weakness, atrophy, cachexia ■ Age related cognitive decline ■ Falls – history of falling ■ Bed confinement ■ Gait abnormality – paralytic or difficulty walking
Resources	<p>National Committee for Quality Assurance, HEDIS® Measurement Year 2023 Volume 2 Technical Specifications for Health Plan</p>

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