

## Advanced Illness & Frailty Exclusions Guide

**Purpose:** [The National Committee for Quality Insurance](#) (NCQA) is responsible for governing [Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set](#) (HEDIS) clinical quality and performance measures which are directly tied to health plan [star ratings](#). NCQA recognizes that not all measures may be relevant or clinically appropriate for older adults with serious illnesses. Therefore, exclusion opportunities exist to exclude patients from measures, such as controlling high blood pressure if patients are reported to have an advanced illness **and** frailty codes within the same performance year. This resource intends to guide clinicians to understand what advanced illness and frailty diagnoses should be reported to exclude patients from HEDIS measures. Please note reporting requirements and format may differ health plan to health plan should practices should work directly with their contracted payers (e.g., Medicare Advantage health plans) to understand their expectations.

| Advance Illness Diagnoses  | ICD-10 Range                              |
|--|---|
| <p>Advanced Illness codes are certain ICD-10 diagnosis codes that carry an <a href="#">HCC (Hierarchical condition category)</a> risk adjustment weight. These diagnoses represent serious illness; examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malignancies</li> <li>• Dementia</li> <li>• Parkinson's</li> <li>• Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)</li> <li>• Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)</li> <li>• Emphysema</li> <li>• Pulmonary fibrosis</li> <li>• Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) stage 5</li> <li>• Pressure ulcers</li> <li>• Hepatic disease (fibrosis/sclerosis/cirrhosis, etc.)</li> </ul> | <p>Report the appropriate ICD-10 code</p> |

| Frailty Diagnoses  | ICD-10 Range |
|--|--------------|
| Pressure ulcers (Specify location & stage)   | L89.(XXX)    |
| Muscle weakness (generalized)  | M62.81       |
| Sarcopenia   | M62.84       |
| Muscle wasting and atrophy, not elsewhere classified, unspecified site (Specify location)                | M62.50       |
| Difficulty in walking, not elsewhere classified  | R26.2        |
| Unspecified abnormalities of gait and mobility   | R26.9        |
| Other reduced mobility (Reduced mobility not otherwise specified)  | Z74.09       |
| Age-related physical debility  | R54          |
| Abnormal weight loss   | R63.4        |
| Underweight (Use additional code to identify Body Mass Index (BMI) if known, Z68.XX)                     | R63.6        |
| Age-related cognitive decline  | R41.81       |
| Weakness   | R53.1        |
| Other malaise (e.g., chronic debility, general physical deterioration)                                   | R53.81       |
| Other fatigue (e.g., fatigue not otherwise specified, lack of energy)                                    | R53.83       |
| Fall on same level from slipping, tripping, or stumbling, without striking something, initial encounter  | W01.0A       |
| Fall on the same level from slipping, tripping, and stumbling with subsequent striking against furniture | W01.190      |
| Fall on/from unspecified stairs or steps   | W10.9        |
| History of falling   | Z91.81       |
| Dependence on supplemental oxygen  | Z99.81       |
| Dependence on wheelchair (wheelchair confinement status)   | Z99.3        |

Frailty can also be demonstrated and reported using Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) use and home health utilization. DME HCPCS codes include the use of a cane, walker, wheelchair, commode, hospital bed, O2, ventilator, and respiratory assist devices (BiPAP, CPCP). Home health HCPCS codes include having home health and hospice nurses and private duty home personal care services. Clinicians should document the use of DME equipment and home health within their progress notes; then, the practice may consider implementing a process where coders or staff are assigned to review charts and submit the appropriate HCPCS codes for exclusion purposes.

### **HEDIS Advance Illness and Frailty Exclusions**

- NCQA allows additional exclusions to the HEDIS Stars measures for patients with advance illness and frailty.
- Services measured by NCQA may not benefit older adults with limited life expectancy and advanced illness. Unnecessary tests or treatments could burden these patients or even be harmful.

#### **Star Measures Exclusions**

| <b>Patients 66 and older excluded if have both advance illness and frailty</b>  | <b>Patients 81 and older excluded with frailty alone</b>   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breast Cancer Screening</li> <li>• Colorectal Cancer Screening</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlling high blood pressure (CBP)</li> <li>• Osteoporosis Management in Women who had a Fracture</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlling Blood Pressure</li> <li>• Osteoporosis Mngt in Women who had a Fracture</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Diabetes Care</li> </ul>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy</li> </ul>                                       |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease</li> </ul>                             |  |