



# Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain (LBP)

HEDIS® Measurement Year 2023

**Measure Description:** Assesses the percentage of members 18-75 years of age with a principal diagnosis of low back pain who did not have an imaging study (plain X-ray, MRI, CT scan) within 28 days of the diagnosis.

**Note:** This measure is reported as an inverted rate. A higher score indicates appropriate treatment of low back pain (i.e., the proportion for whom imaging studies did not occur.)

## Eligible Population

- Commercial, Medicaid and Medicare members 18-75 years of age as of December 31 of the measurement year.
- Members who are in hospice or palliative care are excluded from the eligible population.

## Exclusions

Exclude members who meet any of the following criteria:

- documented evidence of cancer, recent trauma, intravenous drug abuse, neurologic impairment, HIV, spinal infection, major organ transplant, prolonged use of corticosteroids, osteoporosis, fragility fracture, lumbar surgery, or spondylopathy.
- Members 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year who have both a frailty and an advanced illness diagnosis.

## Numerator Codes

A large list of NCQA approved codes is used to identify numerator services for this measure. The complete NCQA approved code set can be referenced in the coding guide at [healthplan.org/providers/patient-care-programs/quality-measures](https://healthplan.org/providers/patient-care-programs/quality-measures).

For questions, please contact your practice management consultant. To identify your practice management consultant, please refer to [healthplan.org/providers/overview/meet-practice-management-consultant](https://healthplan.org/providers/overview/meet-practice-management-consultant).

*The Health Plan has a team of member advocates, health coaches, social workers and nurses who can assist you and your patients to remove or overcome any barriers to care through benefit assistance, community resource referrals or enrollment in a THP clinical program. To refer a patient who is a THP member for assistance, call **1.877.903.7504** and let us know what we can do to help your patient receive and adhere to your recommended plan of care.*