



Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes Tip Sheet

What is the CMS Star Rating Program?

CMS uses a five-star quality rating system to measure the experiences Medicare beneficiaries have with their health plan and healthcare system – the Star Rating Program. Health plans are rated on a scale of 1 to 5 stars, with 5 being the highest. These ratings are then published on the Medicare Plan Finder at medicare.gov to help consumers compare health plans more easily.

Measure Description

Weight: 1

To lower their risk of developing heart disease, most people with diabetes should take cholesterol medication. This measure shows the percent of plan members with diabetes who take the most effective cholesterol-lowering drugs.

Measure Source

- Prescription Drug Event (PDE) data
- 1/1 – 12/31

Stars/Quality Specifications

Percentage of Medicare Part D beneficiaries 40-75 years old who were dispensed at least two diabetes medication fills and received a statin medication fill during the measurement period.

Strategies for Success

Statins have notable drug interactions with:

- Verapamil or diltiazem which are calcium channel blockers (used to treat high blood pressure or migraines).
- Antiarrhythmic drugs or amiodarone or digoxin.
- Some antibiotics.
- Some antifungals.
- Fenofibrate cholesterol-lowering drugs.

Be open to discussing different options and switching medications if needed for intolerance or developed myalgias. Think “low and slow” for re-introduction.

Coding and Documentation Tips

Exclusions:

- Liver disease.
- Pre-diabetes.
- ESRD.
- Rhabdomyolysis and Myopathy.

If you have questions, please contact your provider relations specialist.