Star Measures 101: A Guide for OutcomesMTM Personal Pharmacists™

What are Star ratings?

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 established Medicare Part D plans in 2006: Medicare Advantages Plans (MAPDs) and Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs).

CMS has established Star ratings to monitor the quality of these health plans

- Plans face various rewards and consequences based on their ratings: quality bonus payments, marketing advantages, potential loss of their CMS contract, etc.

Significant Opportunity for Pharmacists!

Pharmacists can directly impact 5 Part D Patient Safety measures through MTM services:

Part D Measure	Description
High risk medication	% of patients taking medication considered to be high-risk in patients ≥65 years old
Diabetes treatment	% of patients with both diabetes and hypertension whose treatment includes a RAS antagonist (ACEI/ARB/DRI)
Adherence for diabetes medications	% of patients whose adherence rate for diabetes medications is ≥80%* • Classes: biguanides, DPP-IV inhibitors, sulfonylureas, TZDs, incretin mimetic agents (proposed), meglitinides (proposed) • *Patients taking insulin are excluded from this measure
Adherence for HTN (RAS antagonists)	% of patients whose adherence rate for RAS antagonists is ≥80%
Adherence for cholesterol (statins)	% of patients whose adherence rate for statins is ≥80%

Prescriber Consultation Best Practices:

Measures involved: High risk medication and Diabetes treatment

Assessing appropriateness of TIP	Does patient already take it and pay cash? Does patient have a contraindication to therapy? • (e.g. renal dysfunction, previous adverse event)?
Leverage relationship with prescribers	Offer to complete in-service with local clinic(s) Note prescriber preferences regarding RAS antagonists & HRMs
Making the recommendation	Keep it concise! Non-critical phrases: "as you know…" & "…if appropriate"

Adherence Patient Consultation Best Practices:

Measures involved: adherence measures (diabetes, RAS antagonists, statins)

Assessing appropriateness of TIP	Is patient still taking medication?
Initiating conversation with the patient	Use the Drug Adherence Workup (DRAW) Tool Open-ended questions: *What is this treating… How are you taking…*
Reinforcement with patient	Review purpose of the medication Address knowledge deficits regarding medication
Strategies to improve adherence	Recommend the patient receives a 90-day supply, if applicable Encourage the patient enrolls in an auto-fill program, if available

Additional Resources:

Beers Criteria	http://www.americangeriatrics.org/files/documents/beers/2012BeersCriteria_JAGS.pdf
PQA HRM List	http://pqaalliance.org/images/uploads/files/HRM%20Measure%202013website.pdf
ADA Guidelines	http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/36/Supplement_1/S11.full.pdf+html