

**PATIENT POPULATION:** Per HEDIS®, members who had an imaging study with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain.

**NUMERATOR COMPLIANCE:** Per HEDIS®, patients 18-75 with a principal diagnosis of low back pain who did not have an imaging study (i.e., plain x-ray, MRI, CT scan) within 28 days of the diagnosis.

## EXCLUSIONS

- » A diagnosis for which imaging is clinically appropriate, including: Cancer; Recent trauma (within the last 3 months); Intravenous drug abuse; Neurologic impairment; HIV; Spinal infection; Major organ transplant; Prolonged use of corticosteroids (90 consecutive days).
- » Exclude members with a diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain) during the 180 days (6 months) prior to the IESD
- » Osteoporosis or a dispensed prescription to treat osteoporosis (Osteoporosis Medication List) any time during the member's history through 28 days after the IESD.
- » Fragility fracture any time during the 3 months (90 days) prior to the IESD through 28 days after the IESD.
- » Lumbar surgery any time during the member's history through 28 days after the IESD.
- » Spondylopathy any time during the member's history through 28 days after the IESD.

## DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- » Supplemental data is not accepted for the diagnosis or imaging services; this data is captured via claims. Supplemental data may only be utilized for exclusions.

## COMMON DOCUMENTATION INSUFFICIENCIES

- » Failing to document exclusions
- » Ordering an imaging study within 28 days of a primary diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain. Associated codes:
  - » M48.07-08; M51.16-17; M51.26-27; M51.36-37; M51.86-87; M53.2X6-2X8; M53.3; M53.86-88; M54.16-18; M54.30-32; M54.40-42; M54.50-59; M54.89; M54.9; M99.03-04; M99.23; M99.33; M99.43; M99.53; M99.63; M99.73; M99.83-84; S33.100A; S33.100D; S33.100S; S33.110A; S33.110D; S33.110S; S33.120A; S33.120D; S33.120S; S33.130A; S33.130D; S33.130S; S33.140A; S33.140D; S33.140S; S33.5XXA; S33.6XXA; S33.8XXA; S33.9XXA; S39.002A; S39.002D; S39.002S; S39.012A; S39.012D; S39.012S; S39.092A; S39.092D; S39.092S; S39.82XA; S39.82XD; S39.82XS; S39.92XA; S39.92XD; S39.92XS

## BEST PRACTICES

- 1** Review ACN Provider Portal for patients identified as non-compliant for this measure and provide education to clinicians as appropriate.
- 2** During the first 4 weeks after diagnosis, unless clinically indicated, educate and provide patients with alternative treatment options to imaging, such as pharmaceuticals, physical therapy, and/or at-home comfort care, such as stretching or low-impact exercise. Address any associated psychosocial issues (i.e., anxiety, depression).
- 3** Our care coordination team of RNs social workers, navigators and health coaches are available to provide your patients with individualized support, education and guidance to help them achieve their best health. To refer a patient please contact us:

602-406-7226 or 855-281-3451  
CareCoordination@azcarenetwork.org



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