

## **UnitedHealth Premium<sup>®</sup> Designation Program**

The UnitedHealth Premium<sup>®</sup> physician designation program uses clinical information from health care claims to assist physicians in their continuous practice improvement and to help consumers in making more informed and personally appropriate choices for their medical care. The program uses evidence-based, medical society, and national industry standards with a transparent methodology and robust data sources to evaluate multiple specialties including primary care and specialists to advance safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered care. The program supports practice improvement and provides physicians with access to information on how their clinical practice compares with national and specialty-specific measures for quality, and with local cost efficiency benchmarks in the same geography.

Evaluation for quality compares a physician's observed practice to the UnitedHealthcare<sup>®</sup> national rate among other physicians who are responsible for the same interventions. Evaluation for cost efficiency compares a physician's observed episode costs to the risk-adjusted costs of their peers in the same specialty and market. Quality is the primary measurement, demonstrating our commitment to evidence-based practice. The quality designation is separate from the cost efficiency designation. Physicians must first be designated for quality in order to be designated for cost efficiency. Physicians who meet the quality designation criteria will receive the quality designation regardless of their cost efficiency evaluation. Quality and cost efficiency evaluations both incorporate adjustments for case mix and severity of illness where appropriate.

Physicians certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) who participate in ABIM's Maintenance of Certification program and complete certain ABIM PIMs Practice Improvement Modules<sup>®</sup> will receive recognition in UnitedHealthcare's physician directories.

Based on participation in qualifying ABIM PIMs Practice Improvement Modules<sup>®</sup>, the Premium program provides physicians an opportunity to receive additional credit toward their quality result. Physicians eligible for Premium designation will receive written documentation from UnitedHealthcare confirming their UnitedHealth Premium designation status.

For questions regarding the eligible PIMs or for more detailed information regarding the UnitedHealth Premium designation program visit [www.unitedhealthcareonline.com](http://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com) or call 1-866-270-5588.

### **Important notes about the UnitedHealth Premium<sup>®</sup> physician designation program**

UnitedHealthcare informs members that designations are intended only as a guide when choosing a physician and should not be the sole factor in selecting a physician. As with all programs that evaluate performance based on analysis of a sample, there is a risk of error. There is a risk of error in the claims data used in the evaluation, the calculation used in the evaluation and the way the program determined that an individual physician was responsible for the treatment of the patient's condition. Physicians have the opportunity to review and reconsider this data. UnitedHealthcare uses statistical testing to compare a physician's results to expected or normative results. There is a risk of error in statistical tests when applied to the data and a result based on statistical testing is not a guarantee of correct inference or classification. We inform members that it is important that they consider many factors and information from as many sources as possible when selecting a physician. We also inform our members that they may wish to discuss designations with a physician before choosing him or her or confer with their current physician for advice on selecting other physicians. It is important to note that some employers may choose to have benefit incentives for their employees to receive care from specialists with the quality and cost efficiency designation.