

PremierBlue Report

A Newsletter for
Professional Providers and
their Staff Members

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Questions:

Contact your Professional Relations Representative, or the Professional Relations Hotline in Topeka at 785-291-7060 or 1-800-432-3587.

OUR WEB ADDRESS:
<http://www.bcbsks.com>

The *Premier Blue Report* is published by your Professional Relations Department.

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Coordinator
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Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set

The Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) is a set of standardized performance measurements to compare health care plans on a variety of attributes other than just premium price. Developed by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA), HEDIS results provide a guide for consumers and health plans to review areas of strengths and needs when considering health care quality.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) has voluntarily participated in HEDIS and has reported results on various managed care products since 1994. In addition, the HEDIS data collection and reporting undergoes an audit process by an outside licensed HEDIS audit firm. BCBSKS uses HEDIS results to measure performance on several quality indicators, which assists in strategy development for improved quality of care for our members.

HEDIS Results For 2000

The following are the most recent HEDIS results for Premier Blue as reported last year. These results encompass reporting year 2000. They are provided only for your information since we have committed to communicating these results to plan providers each year.



The results for Premier Blue are shown below in comparison to the national average for health management organizations (HMOs) that reported their results, as well as the average of the reporting HMOs that include Kansas in their service area. Since it is not required to report results, the comparative includes only those HMOs that have released their HEDIS scores.

As illustrated in this table, Premier Blue compares favorably with the national averages for most of these measures. Shaded areas identify those results that are different from the national average by a statistically significant margin.

	Premier Blue	National HMO	Kansas HMO
Screening Mammography	79.37%	74.18%	76.24%
Cervical Cancer Screening	82.74%	77.11%	79.27%
Ambulatory Follow-Up After Inpatient Mental Health Care	76.52%	72.83%	73.96%
Cholesterol Screening After Acute Cardiovascular Event			
Lipid Profile	81.16%	73.48%	67.83%
Lipid Control	52.17%	52.35%	40.30%
Comprehensive Diabetes			
HbA1c Screening	88.06%	77.56%	81.53%
Poor HbA1c Control*	29.27%	43.92%	39.58%
Eye Exam	59.02%	47.87%	45.00%
Lipid Profile	74.47%	75.66%	73.70%
Lipid Control	43.33%	43.62%	42.37%
Nephropathy Screening	56.21%	43.16%	44.09%
Controlling High Blood Pressure	52.43%	50.47%	44.59%
Appropriate Asthma Medications (Combined Rate)	78.04%	62.47%	65.42%
Chlamydia Screening (Combined Rate)	22.37%	22.57%	17.24%
Prenatal Care	81.85%	80.51%	81.98%
Check-Ups After Delivery	80.89%	72.11%	73.43%

*This measure looks at poor control; therefore the lower the percentage, the better.

HEDIS 2002

In order to obtain the accuracy and overall benefits of the HEDIS process, appropriate and meticulous data collection is required. Data collection is obtained by either an administrative method, in which claims information is the sole source of data, or a hybrid method, in which information is collected from the BCBSKS claims database and from randomly selected patient records through a medical record review. All reviews are performed by professional nurses, certified in clinical review.

Within the next few weeks, your office may be contacted to schedule an on-site review to obtain data directly from your office, or you may receive a request to copy and submit records to Premier Blue for the purpose of this study.

We understand that the data collection process requires significant time and resources on everyone's part in order to obtain the required information. Premier Blue truly appreciates your contractual consent to supply records at no charge for this beneficial quality assurance study.

HIPAA Considerations

Recent questions regarding patient consent for HEDIS information have arisen. Premier Blue adheres to the Kansas Medical Society's position that under the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), a special consent from your patient to collect this information is NOT necessary, as this study is covered under the privacy provisions of TPO (treatment, payment, and health care operations).

If you would like additional information about the HEDIS process, please see your Premier Blue Policy Memo, section IV: Health Plan Employee Data and Information Set (HEDIS).