



Osteoporosis Screening in Older Women (OSW)

Learn how to improve your HEDIS¹ rates for osteoporosis screening.

Use this tip sheet to review key details of the OSW measure, best practices and resources.

Measure	Women 65–75 years of age who received osteoporosis screening. <ul style="list-style-type: none">One or more osteoporosis screening tests on or between the member’s 65th birthday and December 31 of the measurement year.
Exclusions	Patients who meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Had a claim/encounter for osteoporosis therapy any time in the member’s history through December 31 of the year prior to the measurement year.Received a dispensed prescription to treat osteoporosis anytime on or between January 1 three years prior to the measurement year through December 31 of the year prior to the measurement year.Hospice or using hospice services anytime during the measurement year.Palliative care during the measurement year.Died any time during the measurement year.Members 66 and older as of December 31 of the measurement year with frailty and advanced illness.



Often called a silent disease, osteoporosis reduces bone mass through structural deterioration, resulting in compromised bone strength. Osteoporosis is more common in women than in men. One in two women will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime.² Routine screenings can help identify osteoporosis and allow members to take preventive measures.

¹Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS). National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS MY 2025 Technical Specifications for Health Plans, Volume 2, Washington, D.C., 2024.
²Bone Health & Osteoporosis Foundation at www.bonehealthandosteoporosis.org/patients/what-is-osteoporosis/: What is Osteoporosis and What Causes It.

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Best practices

- Following a fragility fracture, such as a fall from standing height or less, it is crucial to initiate osteoporosis treatment as soon as possible to reduce the risk of future fractures.
- Submit a claim for osteoporosis screening.
- Set up a process for bone mineral density (BMD) testing:
 - To determine if a member had a BMD test, query enrolled members in the age span noted.
 - Provide a BMD prescription and urge patients to complete the screening soon.
 - Make sure the screening site notifies you with results in a timely manner.
 - Set up a follow-up visit to discuss the results at the patient’s next visit.
- Evaluate women for risk factors that would increase the risk of osteoporosis. Some risk factors include low bodyweight, excessive alcohol intake, current tobacco use, history of fractures, and use of certain medications.
- Discuss osteoporosis prevention methods with your patients, such as calcium, vitamin D supplements, and weight-bearing exercises.
- Have culturally appropriate, tailored educational messaging that addresses the risk and importance of osteoporosis in racial and ethnic minority populations that have lower screening rates.

Codes

Use the appropriate service codes when billing

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Tests/medications	CPT codes	HCPCS codes
Osteoporosis screening tests	76977, 77078, 77080, 77081, 77085	
Osteoporosis medications		J0897, J1740, J3110, J3111, J3489, Q5136
Long-acting osteoporosis medications during an inpatient stay		J0897, J1740, J3489, Q5136

Resources

- Final Recommendation Statement, Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures: Screening. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force at www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/osteoporosis-screening.
- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), HEDIS Measurement Year 2025 Technical Specifications for Health Plans, Volume 2, 2024.