



Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (SUPD) Tip Sheet

What is the CMS Star Rating Program?

CMS uses a five-star quality rating system to measure the experiences Medicare beneficiaries have with their health plan and healthcare system – the Star Rating Program. Health plans are rated on a scale of 1 to 5 stars, with 5 being the highest. These ratings are then published on the Medicare Plan Finder at [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) to raise the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries, strengthen beneficiary protections and help consumers compare health plans more easily.

Measure Description

Weight: 1

To lower their risk of developing heart disease, most people with diabetes should take cholesterol medication. This rating is based on the percent of plan members with diabetes who take the most effective cholesterol-lowering drugs.

Measure Source

- Prescription Drug Event (PDE) data.
- 1/1 – 12/31.

Stars/Quality Specifications

The percentage of Medicare Part D beneficiaries 40-75 years old who were dispensed at least two diabetes medication fills and received a statin medication fill during the measurement period.

Strategies for Success

Statins have notable drug interactions with:

- Verapamil or diltiazem which are calcium channel blockers (used to treat high blood pressure or migraines).
- Antiarrhythmic drugs or amiodarone or digoxin.
- Some antibiotics.
- Some antifungals.
- Some antivirals.
- Fenofibrate cholesterol-lowering drugs.

Be open to discussing different options and switching medications if needed for intolerance or developed myalgias. Think “low and slow” for re-introduction.

Coding and Documentation Tips

Exclusions:

- Liver disease (ex. K74.69).
- Pre-diabetes (ex. R73.03).
- ESRD (ex. N18.6).
- Rhabdomyolysis (ex. M62.82) and Myopathy (ex. G72.9, G.72.0).
- Lactation.
- Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (E28.2).

Medications

2018 Cholesterol Clinical Practice Guidelines: Executive Summary

Table 3. High-, Moderate-, and Low-Intensity Statin Therapy*

	High Intensity	Moderate Intensity	Low Intensity
LDL-C lowering†	≥50%	30%–49%	<30%
Statins	Atorvastatin (40 mg†) 80 mg Rosuvastatin 20 mg (40 mg)	Atorvastatin 10 mg (20 mg) Rosuvastatin (5 mg) 10 mg Simvastatin 20–40 mg§	Simvastatin 10 mg
	...	Pravastatin 40 mg (80 mg) Lovastatin 40 mg (80 mg) Fluvastatin XL 80 mg Fluvastatin 40 mg BID Pitavastatin 1–4 mg	Pravastatin 10–20 mg Lovastatin 20 mg Fluvastatin 20–40 mg

*Table reference from AHAJournals.org.

If an alternative option is needed due to side effects, consider rosuvastatin (Crestor) as it has a more favorable drug interaction profile, high potency, can be used less frequently (2–3x weekly).

If you have any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Specialist.