

## UnitedHealth Premium® Designation Program

Not all health care is equal, and that can affect the care you receive. According to a study in The New England Journal of Medicine, "participants received 54.9 percent of recommended care."<sup>1</sup> That's why UnitedHealthcare developed the UnitedHealth Premium® designation program, which recognizes physicians that meet guidelines for providing quality and cost efficient care.

The program uses national industry standards to evaluate for quality and local market benchmarks for cost efficiency across up to [27 specialties](#), including family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, cardiology and orthopaedics.

No two doctors are alike, and you probably think about many factors when choosing a physician. We offer tools and information to help you make more confident health care decisions. When you're looking for a doctor, you can consider his or her Premium designation when making your choice.

Physician designation results are displayed publicly on UnitedHealthcare's physician directories. Doctors who have met the criteria for quality and/or cost efficiency could have one of these four UnitedHealth Premium designations:

- Quality & Cost Efficiency
- Cost Efficiency & Not Enough Data to Assess Quality
- Quality & Not Enough Data to Assess Cost Efficiency
- Quality & Did Not Meet Cost Efficiency

Other possible designations include:

- Not Enough Data to Assess Quality & Did Not Meet Cost Efficiency
- Not Enough Data to Assess
- Not Evaluated
- Did Not Meet Quality & Cost Efficiency

The fact that a doctor does not have a quality designation does not mean that the doctor does not provide quality health services. All doctors who are part of the TRICARE network must meet our standard credentialing requirements (separate from the Premium program).

The assessment result "Not Enough Data to Assess" is not an indicator of the total number of patients treated by the doctor or the number of procedures performed by the doctor. Rather, it reflects the statistical requirements of the program.

Access the documents below directly to view frequently asked questions about the program:

- [UnitedHealth Premium Designation Program Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [UnitedHealth Premium Designation Program Frequently Asked Questions for Massachusetts](#)

Use the links below to view the detailed methodology available to physicians, which includes information about the data, measures and statistical methods used to determine a physician's designation:

- [UnitedHealth Premium Designation Program Detailed Methodology](#)
- [UnitedHealth Premium Designation Program Methodology Supplement for Wisconsin Physicians](#)
- [UnitedHealth Premium Designation Program Methodology for Massachusetts Physicians](#)

If you would like to provide feedback on the program, please contact UnitedHealthcare customer service at **1-877-988-WEST (1-877-988-9378)**

## Important Notes about the Program

### ***Premium designations are a guide***

The UnitedHealth Premium<sup>®</sup> designation program is a resource for informational purposes only. Designations are displayed in UnitedHealthcare online physician directories at [www.uhcmilitarywest.com](http://www.uhcmilitarywest.com). You should always visit [www.uhcmilitarywest.com](http://www.uhcmilitarywest.com) for the most current information. **Premium designations are a guide to choosing a physician and may be used as one of many factors you consider when choosing a physician. If you already have a physician, you may also wish to confer with him or her for advice on selecting other physicians. Physician evaluations have a risk of error and should not be the sole basis for selecting a physician.** Please visit [www.uhcmilitarywest.com](http://www.uhcmilitarywest.com) for detailed program information and methodologies.

Only individual physicians that meet UnitedHealth Premium designation criteria, or physicians in designated specialties who are part of medical groups that meet UnitedHealth Premium criteria for group practices and who have sufficient claims data for analysis, may be designated. All physicians that contract with UnitedHealthcare have met credentialing requirements. Regardless of designation, plan enrollees have access to physicians in the TRICARE network as described in their benefit plan. Specialties for which there are no quality guidelines currently established in the program are excluded from evaluation and are noted as such.

The assessment result “Not Enough Data to Assess” is not an indicator of the total number of patients treated by the physician or the number of procedures performed by the physician. Rather, it reflects the statistical requirements of the Premium designation program, which includes only health plan claims associated with specific program measures and relevant to the physician’s designated specialty. In some cases, there may not be enough data to complete the analytic process from a statistical standpoint.

Premium Designation information is given for physicians who participate with both UnitedHealthcare commercial health plan networks and TRICARE networks. Information is not given for physicians who participate only with the TRICARE network. Physicians who participate only with the TRICARE network receive the assessment result “Not Evaluated.”

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<sup>1</sup> Asch, Steven M. et al. The New England Journal of Medicine. 2006 March 16; 354: 1147-1156.