

# Medication Adherence for Cholesterol (Statins)



## Measure Description

Percentage of patients with a prescription for a cholesterol medication, such as a statin drug, who fill their prescription often enough to cover at least 80% of the time prescribed.

## Calculation

### [Numerator] = Measure Compliance

The number of patients 18 years and older who have a proportion of days covered (PDC) of 80% or greater for their statin during the measurement period.

### [Denominator] = Measure Population

The number of patients 18 years and older with at least two fills of their statin on unique dates of service during the measurement period.

## Exclusions

- In hospice
- ESRD diagnosis or dialysis coverage dates

## Strategies for Rate Improvement

- Identify and address any barriers to non-adherence at every visit.
- Provide clear instructions and emphasize the benefits of adherence as well as the risks of non-adherence.
- Manage side effects by either changing the statin or reducing the dosage.
- Once patients are on a stable regimen, prescribe 100-day supplies through their preferred pharmacy or mail-order pharmacy.
- Offer accessible solutions to adherence such as the use of pill boxes, bubble packs, text reminders, and auto-refills.
- Encourage patients to fill prescriptions using their L.A. Care pharmacy benefit. Gap closure is dependent on pharmacy claims.

## Why Statins Matter

- The American Heart Association recommends using statins to reduce risk for major atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) events, especially in high-risk populations like diabetes, heart failure, ASCVD, and acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

### Statins: Generic and Brand Names

<b>Atorvastatin</b> (Lipitor, Caduet*)	<b>Rosuvastatin</b> (Crestor, Ezallor, Roszet*)
<b>Lovastatin</b> (Mevacor, Altoprev)	<b>Fluvastatin</b> (Lescol XL)
<b>Pravastatin</b> (Pravachol)	<b>Pitavastatin</b> (Livalo, Zypitamag)
<b>Simvastatin</b> (Zocor, Vytorin*)	

1. Medicare 2025 Part c & D Star Ratings Technical Notes. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2025-star-ratings-technical-notes.pdf>

2. Outcomes. Raising Adherence, Digitally: Survey Highlights Opportunities for Pharmacies and Payers to Boost Medication Compliance. [Pgaalliance.org](https://www.pgaalliance.org/index.php?category=guest-blog&id=317%3Araising-adherence-digitally-survey-highlights-opportunities-for-pharmacies-and-payers-to-boost-medication-compliance&option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry). Published 2024. Accessed December 30, 2024. [https://www.pgaalliance.org/index.php?category=guest-blog&id=317%3Araising-adherence-digitally-survey-highlights-opportunities-for-pharmacies-and-payers-to-boost-medication-compliance&option=com\\_dailyplanetblog&view=entry](https://www.pgaalliance.org/index.php?category=guest-blog&id=317%3Araising-adherence-digitally-survey-highlights-opportunities-for-pharmacies-and-payers-to-boost-medication-compliance&option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry)



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