

South Carolina Statistics

PCSK9 Inhibitors



About PCSK9 Inhibitors

PCSK9 inhibitors are designed for patients with extremely high LDL, or “bad,” cholesterol. The drugs are approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat:

- **Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia**, an inherited condition that causes high levels of LDL cholesterol
- **Clinical atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease**, such as heart attacks or strokes.

Analysis of Health Plan Coverage & Access

A national data supplier reviewed PCSK9 inhibitor claims for managed care organizations in South Carolina from January 2017 through December 2017.

Key South Carolina Findings



Rejection Rate:

29%



Appeals Rate:

31%



Final Rejections:

1,182

Of health plans that received at least 50 claims for PCSK9 inhibitors, the following had **the highest rates of rejections:**

- Tricare Military Health Svc Sys **59%**
- BCBS South Carolina **54%**
- Express Scripts **52%**
- CVS Health **40%**

The following had **the lowest rates of rejection:**

- Aetna **12%**
- Humana Health Plan **11%**



The following table details claims data for the South Carolina managed care organizations that received at least 50 claims for PCSK9 inhibitors.

Managed Care Organization	Rejection %	Total Claims	Rejections
Tricare Military Health Svc Sys	59%	141	83
BCBS SC	54%	302	163
Express Scripts	52%	155	81
CVS Health	40%	378	150
South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority	31%	426	134
United Health Group	24%	697	167
Wellcare Management Group	24%	55	13
Cigna Healthcare	17%	184	31
Aetna	12%	346	41
Humana Health Plan	11%	980	107

Data source: National data supplier; Medicare, Medicaid, Medicaid managed care, and commercial plans; January-December 2017.



The Institute for Patient Access is a physician led nonprofit 501(c)(3) research organization promoting the benefits of the physician-patient relationship in the provision of quality healthcare.



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South Carolina patients' access to PCSK9 inhibitors can vary widely depending upon whether their coverage is commercial or Medicare.



Initial Rejection Rates

Commercial:

72%

Medicare:

38%



Final Rejection Rates

Commercial:

59%

Medicare:

15%

The table below highlights the rejection rates for South Carolina insurers who provide both commercial and Medicare coverage.

Health Plan	Total Claims	Initial Rejections	Final Rejections	
Aetna	Commercial	84	42%	24%
	Medicare	262	29%	8%
Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina	Commercial	195	76%	70%
	Medicare	98	37%	17%
Cigna Healthcare	Commercial	108	30%	18%
	Medicare	76	49%	16%
CVS Health	Commercial	113	96%	94%
	Medicare	265	49%	17%
South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority	Commercial	101	97%	82%
	Medicare	325	40%	16%
United Health Group	Commercial	68	69%	56%
	Medicare	629	48%	21%

Source: National data supplier; Medicare, Medicaid, Medicaid managed care, and commercial plans; January-December 2017