



PCSK9 Inhibitors: North Carolina

PCSK9 Inhibitors

PCSK9 inhibitors are designed for patients with extremely high LDL, or “bad,” cholesterol. The drugs work by preventing the PCSK9 protein from destroying a receptor on the liver that clears bad cholesterol. The receptor “lives” longer, clearing more LDL cholesterol for the patient.

PCSK9 inhibitors 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

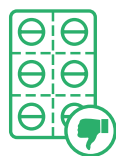
A national data supplier reviewed PCSK9 inhibitor claims for managed care organizations in North Carolina from July 2015 to July 2016.

Key North Carolina Findings



Rejection Rate:

45%



Total rejections:

684



Total appeals:

132

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

Express Scripts **83%** | Blue Cross Blue Shield NC **74%**
North Carolina Teachers & State Employees **72%** | CVS Health **59%**

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

Aetna US Healthcare **25%** | Humana Health Plan **24%**

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

MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION	Rejection %	Total Claims	Approvals	Rejections	Reversals
Express Scripts	83.64%	55	5	46	4
BCBS NC	74.34%	152	19	113	20
North Carolina Teachers & State Employees	72.73%	66	15	48	3
CVS Health	59.04%	83	22	49	12
United Health Group	53.54%	198	60	106	32
Aetna US Healthcare	25.65%	191	104	49	38
Humana Health Plan	24.11%	531	270	128	133

Data source: National data supplier; Medicare, Medicaid managed care and commercial plans; July 2015-July 2016.



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.

