



PCSK9 Inhibitors: California

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.

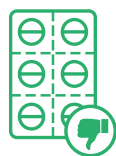
Analysis of Health Plan Coverage & Access

A national data supplier reviewed PCSK9 inhibitor claims for managed care organizations in California from July 30, 2015 to July 21, 2016.

Key California Findings



Rejection Rate:
39%



Total rejections:
2,892



Total appeals:
1,585

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

Federal Employee Benefit Plan **84%** | Blue Shield of CA **66%**
Express Scripts **64%** | Scan Health Plan **52%**

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

Humana Health Plan **26%** | Wellcare Management Group **19%**
Rite Aid **13%** | MPC Managed Pharmacy Care **1%**

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

MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION	Rejection %	Total Claims	Approvals	Rejections	Reversals
Federal Employee Benefit Plan	84.06%	69	5	58	6
Blue Shield of CA	66.61%	548	154	365	29
Express Scripts	64.97%	491	129	319	43
Scan Health Plan	52.38%	84	27	44	13
Anthem	52.14%	374	133	195	46
Health Net	51.11%	90	36	46	8
Cigna Healthcare	46.83%	126	48	59	19
Medimpact Healthcare Systems	46.30%	54	27	25	2
United Health Group	36.14%	1198	586	433	179
Tricare Military Health SVC Sys	36.09%	133	66	48	19
Symphonix Health	33.33%	60	36	20	4
State of California Employees	29.92%	127	82	38	7
CVS Health	29.34%	1060	639	311	110
Aetna US Healthcare	28.86%	440	247	127	66
Humana Health Plan	26.05%	1140	604	297	239
Wellcare Management Group	19.44%	108	71	21	16
Rite Aid	13.80%	355	260	49	46
MPC Managed Pharmacy Care	1.42%	141	121	2	18

Data source: National data supplier; Medicare, Medicaid managed care and commercial plans; July 30, 2015-July 21, 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.

