



PCSK9 Inhibitors: South 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

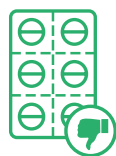
A national data supplier reviewed PCSK9 inhibitor claims for managed care organizations in South Carolina from August 20, 2015 to July 21, 2016.

Key South Carolina Findings



Rejection Rate:

48%



Total rejections:

602



Total appeals:

123

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

BCBS SC **82%** | Cigna Healthcare **65%**
CVS Health **56%** | Express Scripts **54%**

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

United Health Group **49%** | SC State Employees **37%**
Humana Health Plan **34%** | Aetna US Healthcare **30%**

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	Approvals	Rejections	Reversals
BCBS SC	82.54%	63	9	52	2
Cigna Healthcare	65.45%	55	14	36	5
CVS Health	56.03%	116	32	65	19
Express Scripts	54.05%	74	21	40	13
United Health Group	49.42%	172	63	85	24
South Carolina State Employees	37.01%	127	75	47	5
Humana Health Plan	34.50%	313	135	108	70
Aetna US Healthcare	30.00%	80	38	24	18

Data source: National data supplier; Medicare, Medicaid managed care and commercial plans; August 20, 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.

