



PCSK9 Inhibitors: Alabama

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

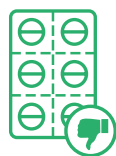
A national data supplier reviewed PCSK9 inhibitor claims for managed care organizations in Alabama from August 6, 2015 to July 21, 2016.

Key Alabama Findings



Rejection Rate:

53%



Total rejections:

976



Total appeals:

238

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

Federal Employee Benefit Plan **87%** | BCBS AL **60%**
Express Scripts **59%** | Cigna Healthcare **59%**

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

CVS Health **51%** | Tricare Military Health SVC SYS **47%**
United Health Group **46%** | Humana Health Plan **28%**

The following table details claims data for the Alabama 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	87.93%	58	5	51	2
BCBS AL	60.99%	523	145	319	59
Cigna Healthcare	59.38%	96	26	57	13
Express Scripts	59.04%	83	27	49	7
Public Education Employees Health Ins Plan AL	55.65%	124	46	69	9
CVS Health	51.28%	156	57	80	19
Tricare Military Health SVC Sys	47.37%	57	23	27	7
United Health Group	46.71%	167	73	78	16
Humana Health Plan	28.88%	232	111	67	54

Data source: National data supplier; Medicare, Medicaid managed care and commercial plans; August 6, 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.

