

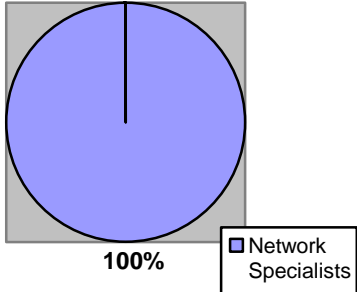
Aetna's Aexcel® Performance Network Clinical Performance Evaluation

The Aexcel designation process includes evaluation of four key criteria:

- Case Volume
- Clinical Performance
- Cost Efficiency
- Network Adequacy

Here's an overview of the Clinical Performance evaluation component of this process:

Step 1



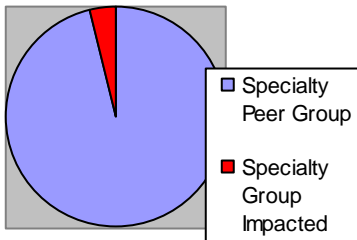
We begin with a view of all Aetna physicians in a geographic market who practice the selected specialty (for example, all cardiologists in the Aetna network in Atlanta).

All doctors are ordered according to an overall index score. **Index metrics are based on established, evidence-based measures of clinical performance.** Metrics include:

- 30-day hospital readmission rate
- Adverse event rate
- Specialty-specific measures
 - Cardiology: ACE/ARB used in CHF, beta blocker after MI, statin used in CHF
 - OB: breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, testing for HIV during pregnancy

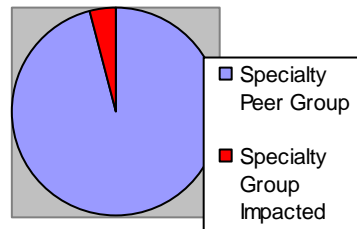
Each metric is severity-adjusted and must have 10 eligible cases to be scored. Only scored metrics are included in the index score; metrics are weighted according to number of eligible cases.

Step 2



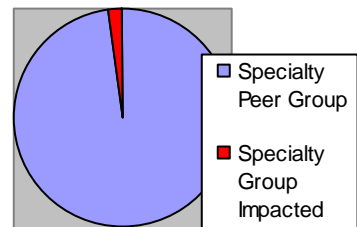
We identify the group of doctors with the **lowest 4% of index scores**. Those specialists whose measured outcomes fall below the 5th percentile of the peer group are reviewed further (Steps 3-6) and *may* be excluded from consideration for Aexcel designation.

Step 3



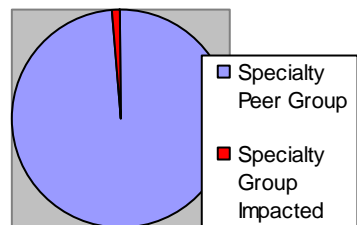
Next we apply a **statistical significance** formula (95% confidence limits) to the lowest group, removing any cases with insufficient statistical significance and reducing the group that may be excluded from Aexcel designation.

Step 4



An **Aetna medical director reviews** metric detail reports of physicians remaining in the lowest group using clinical data available. Some cases are removed after Aetna medical director review, reducing the number of physician groups that may be excluded from Aexcel designation.

Step 5



Prior to any final decision about designation and publication of results, detailed clinical performance data for each metric is **shared with the physicians** remaining in the lowest group. An Aetna medical director is available to discuss this data. Every physician has the opportunity to provide additional information for reconsideration prior to the final clinical performance designation decisions.



Step 6

Aexcel designations are finalized and information is published according to Aetna's transparency guidelines. Members can see whether physicians met Aexcel criteria for clinical performance, efficiency and volume.