

HEDIS® 2017 MEASURE: APPROPRIATE TESTING FOR CHILDREN WITH PHARYNGITIS (CWP)

Children 3-18 years of age who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

Inclusion into the measure can include the following two events:

- ▶ Children 3 years old as of July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year to 18 years old as of June 30 of the measurement year.
- ▶ Children with a date of service for any outpatient or ED visit with a diagnosis of pharyngitis during the 12-month period that begins on July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and ends on June 30 of the measurement year, and an antibiotic ordered on or three days after the visit.

Exclusions:

- ▶ Episode Dates with evidence of antibiotic medication 30 days prior to the Episode Date.
- ▶ Episode Dates if the member did not receive antibiotics on or three days after the Episode Date.
- ▶ Claims/encounters with more than one diagnosis code and ED visits or observation visits that result in an inpatient stay.
- ▶ Members in hospice care are excluded from the eligible population.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEDIS SCORE:

- Use complete and accurate Value Set Codes.
- Timely submit claims and encounter data.
- Ensure proper documentation/evidence in medical record.
 - Date of service for an outpatient or ED visit with a diagnosis of pharyngitis.
 - Throat culture lab report.
 - Date and result of strep test with a diagnosis of pharyngitis.
 - Antibiotic prescription for the episode.
 - Document that a rapid strep test or throat culture was done to confirm diagnosis before prescribing antibiotics.
 - Document the parent or caregiver's refusal of testing in medical records.
- Never treat "red throats" empirically, as they are viral even in children with a long history of strep. Clinical findings alone do not adequately distinguish strep vs. no strep pharyngitis. The patient's strep may have become resistant, so a culture is needed each time.
- Diagnosis of group A beta streptococcal pharyngitis should be made by laboratory testing rather than clinically.
- Due to considerable evidence that prescribing antibiotics is not the first line of treatment for colds or sore throats caused by viruses, pediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines recommend that only children with lab-confirmed group A strep or other bacterial-related ailments be treated with appropriate antibiotics.



- Children with sore throat plus 2 or more of the following symptoms should undergo a rapid strep test:
 - Absence of cough.
 - Presence of tonsillar exudates or swelling.
 - History of fever.
 - Presence of swollen and tender anterior cervical lymph nodes.
 - Age < 15 years.
- Educate parents/caregivers that an antibiotic is not necessary for viral infections if rapid strep test and/or throat culture is negative.
- If a patient tests negative for group A strep but insists on an antibiotic:
 - Refer to the illness as a sore throat due to a cold; patients tend to associate the label with a less-frequent need for antibiotics.
 - Write a prescription for symptom relief, like over-the-counter medicines.
- Appropriate Medications:

Description	Prescription
Aminopenicillins	• amoxicillin • ampicillin
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	• amoxicillin-clavulanate
First generation cephalosporins	• cefadroxil • cephalixin • cefazolin • cephradine
Folate antagonist	• trimethoprim
Lincomycin derivatives	• clindamycin
Macrolides	• azithromycin • erythromycin lactobionate • clarithromycin • erythromycin estolate • erythromycin • erythromycin stearate • erythromycin ethylsuccinate
Miscellaneous antibiotics	• erythromycin-sulfisoxazole
Natural penicillins	• penicillin G potassium • penicillin V potassium • penicillin G sodium
Penicillinase-resistant penicillins	• dicloxacillin
Quinolones	• ciprofloxacin • moxifloxacin • gatifloxacin • ofloxacin • levofloxacin • sparfloxacin • lomefloxacin
Second generation cephalosporins	• cefaclor • cefuroxime • cefprozil • loracarbef
Sulfonamides	• sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim • sulfisoxazole
Tetracyclines	• doxycycline • tetracycline • minocycline
Third generation cephalosporins	• cefdinir • ceftibuten • cefixime • cefditoren • cefpodoxime • ceftriaxone



Codes used to identify Pharyngitis

Description	ICD-10-CM
Pharyngitis	J02.0 (Streptococcal sore throat), J02.8, J02.9 (Acute pharyngitis), J03.00, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91 (Acute tonsillitis)

Codes used to identify visit type and Strep Test

Description	CPT	HCPCS
ED	99281-99285	
Observation	99217-99220	
Outpatient	99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, 99341-99345, 99347-99350, 99381-99387, 99391-99397, 99401-99404, 99411, 99412, 99420, 99429, 99455, 99456	G0402, G0438, G0439, G0463, T1015
Group A Strep Tests	87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650-87652, 87880	

Codes used to identify exclusions

Description	HCPCS	UBREV
Inpatient Stay		0100, 0101, 0110, 0111, 0112, 0113, 0114, 0116, 0117, 0118, 0119, 0120, 0121, 0122, 0123, 0124, 0126, 0127, 0128, 0129, 0130, 0131, 0132, 0133, 0134, 0136, 0137, 0138, 0139, 0140, 0141, 0142, 0143, 0144, 0146 Additional codes can be found in the "Inpatient Stay Value Set"
Hospice Services	G9702	
Children taking antibiotics 30 days prior to the diagnosis of pharyngitis	G9703	

