



Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis

Best Practice

According to the CDC, clinical findings alone do not adequately distinguish Strep vs. Non-Strep pharyngitis. A rapid Strep test is needed in conjunction with clinical and epidemiological findings when diagnosing. If the rapid Strep test is negative, a throat culture may also be done.

In a recent nationwide survey, 42% of physicians reported they would start antibiotic treatment for children with pharyngitis before knowing the results and continue with treatment despite negative results.¹

Wellness Report

Molina Healthcare uses Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) rates to monitor the percentage of children 2–18 years of age who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

HEDIS® Measure	2007 Rate	2008 Rate	2009 Rate	NCQA 75 th Percentile
Appropriate testing for children with pharyngitis*	63.78%	63.44%	62.85%	72.00%

*A higher rate represents better performance (i.e., appropriate testing).

The scores show opportunity for improvement in appropriately testing for children with pharyngitis. With your help, Molina Healthcare can ensure all children are appropriately tested for pharyngitis.

¹ Park SY, Gerber MA, Tanz RR, Hicker JM, Galliher JM, Chuang I, et al. Clinicians' management of children and adolescents with acute pharyngitis. *Pediatrics* 2006; 117(6): 1871-1878
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