

Provider Memorandum

Responsible Prescribing of Antibiotics in Adults with Acute Respiratory Infections

Molina Healthcare of Illinois (Molina) is committed to provide quality service to our Members.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Physicians have published guidance on appropriate prescribing of antibiotics in acute respiratory tract infections in healthy adults. The following recommendations were developed by the High Value Task Force of the American College of Physicians and for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (Harris, Hicks & Qaseem, 2016).

High-Value Care Advice 1: Clinicians should not perform testing or initiate antibiotic therapy in patients with bronchitis unless pneumonia is suspected.

High-Value Care Advice 2: Clinicians should test patients with symptoms suggestive of group A streptococcal pharyngitis by rapid antigen detection test and/or culture for group A Streptococcus. Clinicians should treat patients with antibiotics only if they have confirmed streptococcal pharyngitis.

High-Value Care Advice 3: Clinicians should reserve antibiotic treatment for acute rhinosinusitis for patient with persistent symptoms for more than 10 days, onset of severe symptoms or signs of high fever ($> 39^{\circ}\text{C}$) and purulent nasal discharge or facial pain lasting for at least three consecutive day, or onset of worsening symptoms following a typical viral illness that lasted five days that was initially improving (double sickening).

High Value Care Advice 4: Clinicians should not prescribe antibiotics for patients with the common cold.

Inappropriate antibiotic prescribing has resulted in antibiotic resistance and higher health care costs. When increased efforts are made to judiciously prescribe antibiotics, antibiotic resistance can be more easily managed directly resulting in decreased health care costs.

Molina values and appreciates the services you provide to our Members. Thank you for working together with us and for your continued support.

Please contact your Provider Services Representatives if you have questions or need guidance. You may also contact the Provider Service Department at (630) 203-3965 or via email at IllinoisProviders@MolinaHealthcare.com.

References

Aaron M. Harris, MD, MPH, Amir Qaseem, MD, PHD, MHA, Lauri A. Hicks, DO. (2015). Appropriate Antibiotic Use of Acute Respiratory Tract Infection in Adults: Advice for High-Value Care. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Retrieved from <http://annals.org/aim/article/2481815/appropriate-antibiotic-use-acute-respiratory-tract-infection-adults-advice-high>.