

HEDIS® Tips:

Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis (CWP)

MEASURE DESCRIPTION

The percentage of children 3-18 years of age diagnosed with pharyngitis and dispensed an antibiotic should have received a Group A strep test within 3 days prior to the diagnosis date through the 3 days after the diagnosis date.

USING CORRECT BILLING CODES

Codes to Identify Pharyngitis

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

Codes to Identify Strep Test

Description	CPT® Codes
Group A Strep Tests	87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650-87652, 87880

HOW TO IMPROVE HEDIS SCORES

- ☐ Perform a rapid strep test or throat culture to confirm diagnosis before prescribing antibiotics. Submit this test to Molina Healthcare for payment if the State permits, or as a record that you performed the test. Use the codes above.
- ☐ 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 and needs a culture.
- ☐ Submit any co-morbid diagnosis codes that apply on claim/encounter.
- ☐ Educate parents/caregivers that an antibiotic is not necessary for viral infections if rapid strep test and/or throat culture is negative.
- ☐ Additional resources for clinicians and parents/caregivers about pharyngitis can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/index.html>