

HEDIS® Tips:

Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)

MEASURE DESCRIPTION

The percentage of episodes for patients ages 3 months and older who were continuously enrolled with a gap of coverage from 30 days prior to the Episode Date through 3 days after the Episode Date with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis or bronchiolitis that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.

This measure is reported as an inverted rate [(1-numerator/eligible population)]. A higher rate indicates appropriate acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis treatment – i.e., the proportion of episodes that DID NOT result in an antibiotic dispensing event).

How episodes are identified for this measure

- 1) Identify all patients who had an outpatient, telephone, online assessment, observation visit, or an ED visit with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis. Do not include outpatient, ED or observation visits that result in inpatient stays.
- 2) Determine all acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis episodes.
- 3) Exclude episode dates when patients had comorbid conditions (e.g., HIV, HIV Type 2, Cancer, Emphysema, COPD, and Immune Disorders).
- 4) Exclude episodes with competing diagnoses (e.g., pharyngitis) on or 3 days after the Episode Date.

CODES INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT HEDIS MEASURE

Codes to Identify Acute Bronchitis

Description	ICD-10 Code
Acute bronchitis	J20.3-J20.9, J21.0, J21.1, J21.8, J21.9

Codes to Identify Most Common Comorbid Conditions

Description	ICD-10 Code
Chronic bronchitis	J41.0, J41.1, J41.8, J42
Emphysema	J43.0, J43.1, J43.2, J43.8, J43.9
COPD	J44.0, J44.1, J44.9

Codes to Identify Most Common Competing Diagnoses

Description	ICD-10 Code
Acute sinusitis	J01.80-J01.81 J01.90-J01.91
Otitis media	H66.001-H66.009, H66.011-H66.017, H66.019, H66.10-H66.13, H66.20-H66.23, H66.3X1-H66.3X3, H66.3X9, H66.40-H66.43, H66.90-H66.93, H67.1-H67.3, H67.9
Pharyngitis, streptococcal tonsillitis, or acute tonsillitis	J02.0, J02.8, J02.9, J03.00, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91

Codes to Identify Telephone and Telehealth Appointments

Description	Codes		
Telephone Visits	CPT®: 98966, 98967, 98968, 99441, 99442, 99443		
Telehealth Modifier	95, GT	WITH	POS: 02

HOW TO IMPROVE HEDIS SCORES

- ☐ Schedule telephone and/ telehealth appointments to diagnose patients with acute bronchitis or bronchiolitis.
- ☐ Educate patients on comfort measures without antibiotics (e.g., extra fluids and rest).
- ☐ Discuss realistic expectations for recovery time (e.g., cough can last for 4 weeks without being “abnormal”).
- ☐ Discuss antibiotic resistance with patients insisting an antibiotic. You can:
 - Give a brief explanation
 - Write a prescription for symptom relief instead of an antibiotic
 - Encourage follow-up in 3 days if symptoms do not get better
- ☐ Submit comorbid diagnosis codes if present on claim/encounter.
- ☐ Submit competing diagnosis codes for bacterial infection if present on claim/encounter.

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