

# HEDIS® Tips:

## Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

### MEASURE DESCRIPTION

The percentage of episodes for patients 3 years and older where the patient was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A strep test for the episode (within 3 days prior to the diagnosis date through the 3 days after the diagnosis date).

This measure is reported as an inverted rate  $[(1 - \text{numerator} / \text{eligible population})]$ . 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

- Identify all patients who had an outpatient, telephone, online assessment, observation visit, or an ED visit with a diagnosis of pharyngitis. Do not include outpatient, ED or observation visits that result in inpatient stays.
- Determine all pharyngitis episodes and determine if antibiotics were dispensed for any of the Episode Dates.
- Exclude episode dates when patients had comorbid conditions (e.g., HIV, HIV Type 2, Cancer, Emphysema, COPD, and Immune Disorders).

### CODES INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT HEDIS MEASURE

#### 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

#### Codes to Identify Telephone and Telehealth Appointments

Description	CPT® 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/or telehealth appointment to diagnose patients with pharyngitis.
- ☐ 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 correct billing codes.
- ☐ Do not 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.
- ☐ Remember that additional resources for clinicians and parents/caregivers about pharyngitis can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/index.html>

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Updated 06/17/2020