

# Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

## Measure Description

The percentage of episodes for members three years old and older where the member was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic, and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

**Product Lines:** Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare

**Intake Period:** A 12-month window that begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the measurement year (MY) and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the measurement year. The intake period captures eligible episodes of treatment.

2024						2025												2026					
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
MY 2025 Intake Period												MY 2026 Intake Period											

## Codes Included in the Current HEDIS® Measure

Description	Code
Pharyngitis	ICD-10: J02.0, J02.8, J02.9, J03.00, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91
Group A Strep Tests	CPT: 87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650-87652, 87880
Telephone Visits	CPT: 98966-98968, 99441-99443
Online Assessments	CPT: 98970-98972, 98980, 98981, 99421-99423, 99457, 99458 HCPCS: G0071, G2010, G2012, G2250-G2252

## Medications

### CWP Antibiotic Medications

Description	Prescription
Aminopenicillins	Amoxicillin, Ampicillin
Beta-lactamase Inhibitors	Amoxicillin-clavulanate
1st Generation Cephalosporins	Cefadroxil, Cefazolin, Cephalexin
Folate Antagonist	Trimethoprim
Lincomycin Derivatives	Clindamycin
Macrolides	Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Erythromycin
Natural Penicillin	Penicillin G benzathine, Penicillin G potassium, Penicillin G sodium, Penicillin V potassium
Quinolones	Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Ofloxacin
Second Generation Cephalosporins	Cefaclor, Cefprozil, Cefuroxime
Sulfonamides	Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim
Tetracyclines	Doxycycline, Minocycline, Tetracycline
3rd Generation Cephalosporins	Cefdinir, Cefixime, Cefpodoxime, Ceftriaxone

## Ways Providers can Improve HEDIS® Performance

- Schedule appointments 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. Refer to diagnosis codes in the above chart.
- 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 member’s strep may have become resistant and needs a culture.
- Additional resources for clinicians about pharyngitis can be found at: [Clinical Guidance for Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis](#)

## Ways Health Plans can Improve HEDIS® Performance

- Educate parents/caregivers on the appropriate use of antibiotics to treat bacterial infections. Antibiotics are not helpful for viral infections.
- Identify members in CWP denominator and educate on proper treatment
- Audit, identify, and educate providers with top 10 open gaps
- Support antibiotic stewardship awareness campaigns with community engagement (e.g. [Improving Antibiotic Use \(cdc.gov\)](#))
- Develop value-based arrangements for appropriate use of antibiotics

## Required Exclusions

- Members who use hospice services or elect to use a hospice benefit any time during the measurement period.
- Members who die any time during the measurement year.
- 12 months prior to or on the episode date diagnosis of Comorbid Conditions.
- Visits that result in inpatient stay

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