

Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

By working together, we can improve health outcomes for your patients, our members. The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) helps us measure many aspects of performance. This tip sheet provides key details of the HEDIS measure for appropriate testing for pharyngitis.

What is the measure?

The measure focuses on members age 3 and older who had a diagnosis of pharyngitis during the measurement year and were dispensed an antibiotic and received a Group A streptococcus test for the episode. This measure considers all eligible episodes so a patient can count more than once toward performance for a measurement year.

How to Improve Your Quality Score

- Review and document the group A streptococcus (strep) test in your records.
- Use correct procedure codes.
- Submit claims and encounter data in a timely manner.

Note: Compliance is met if patient received a group A streptococcus (strep) test during the episode period, which is a seven-day period spanning from three days before to three days after the episode. Compliance is determined independently for each eligible episode occurring in a measurement year.

Codes

Group A Strep Test **CPT:** 87070 – 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650 – 87652, 87880

Table 1: Antibiotic Medications

Medication Type	Prescription(s)
Aminopenicillins	Amoxicillin, Ampicillin
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	Amoxicillin-clavulanate
First generation cephalosporins	Cefadroxil, Cefazolin, Cephalexin
Folate antagonist	Trimethoprim
Lincomycin derivatives	Clindamycin
Macrolides	Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Erythromycin

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HEDIS Measure: Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP) *(continued)*

Table 1: Antibiotic Medications

Medication Type	Prescription(s)
Natural penicillin(s)	Penicillin G potassium, Penicillin G sodium, Penicillin V potassium, Penicillin G benzathine
Quinolones	Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Ofloxacin
Second generation cephalosporins	Cefaclor, Cefprozil, Cefuroxime
Sulfonamides	Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim
Tetracyclines	Doxycycline, Minocycline, Tetracycline
Third generation cephalosporins	Cefdinir, Cefixime, Cefpodoxime, Ceftriaxone

Table II: Medication History, Condition History and Competing Diagnoses

Some conditions and/or diagnoses, if documented in your medical evaluation, will designate your patient as excluded from your HEDIS metric. These cases do not negatively affect your performance for National Committee for Quality Assurance.

For some measures, evidence of prior medical and prescription history can also exclude a patient from consideration.

Exclusions

- **Negative medication history:** A period of 30 days prior to an episode in which the patient has not had any antibiotic medications dispensed
- **Negative condition history:** A period of 12 months prior to the episode in which the patient has not been diagnosed with any of the following competing conditions: human immunodeficiency virus, malignant neoplasm, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, immune system disorders and other comorbid conditions (tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia, respiratory failure, and others)
- **Competing diagnosis/differential diagnosis:** If a patient has had a competing diagnosis during the **episode period** including cholera, typhoid, salmonella, whooping cough, and others
- **Members in hospice or using hospice services during the measurement year**
- **Members who died any time during measurement year**

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