

Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

Description of Measure

Percentage of episodes for members 3 years and older where the member was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.¹

Description of Measure

- **Intake Period:** Captures episodes of treatment between July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year to June 30 of the measurement year.
- **Episode Date:** The date of service in any outpatient, telephone or ED visit, e-visit or virtual check-in during the intake period with a diagnosis of pharyngitis.

Measure Compliance

A group A streptococcus test in the 7-day period from 3 days prior to the episode date through 3 days after the episode date.

A higher rate indicates completion of the appropriate testing required to merit antibiotic treatment for pharyngitis.

CWP Antibiotic Medications

Description	Prescription
Aminopenicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Amoxicillin▪ Ampicillin
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Amoxicillin-clavulanate
First generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cefadroxil▪ Cefazolin▪ Cephalexin
Folate antagonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Trimethoprim
Lincomycin derivatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Clindamycin
Macrolides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Azithromycin▪ Clarithromycin▪ Erythromycin
Natural penicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Penicillin G benzathine▪ Penicillin G potassium▪ Penicillin G sodium▪ Penicillin V potassium



CWP Antibiotic Medications (continued)

Description	Prescription
Quinolones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ciprofloxacin ■ Levofloxacin ■ Moxifloxacin ■ Ofloxacin
Second generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cefaclor ■ Cefprozil ■ Cefuroxime
Sulfonamides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim
Tetracyclines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Doxycycline ■ Minocycline ■ Tetracycline
Third generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cefdinir ■ Cefixime ■ Cefpodoxime ■ Ceftriaxone

Codes	DESCRIPTIONS
CPT: 87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650, 87651, 87652, 87880	Group A Strep Tests
ICD10: J02.0, J02.8, J02.9, J03.00, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91	Pharyngitis
CPT: 98000 – 98016, 98966 – 98968, 98970 – 98972, 98980, 98981, 99202 – 99205, 99211 – 99215, 99242 – 99245, 99281 – 99285, 99341, 99342, 99344, 99345, 99347 – 99350, 99381 – 99387, 99391 – 99397, 99401 – 99404, 99411, 99412, 99421 – 99423, 99429, 99441- 99458, 99483 HCPCS: G0071, G0402, G0438, G0439, G0463, G2010, G2012, G2250 - G2252, T1015	Outpatient Visit or Telehealth

Exclusions

Exclusions	Time limit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Members who use hospice services) or elect to use a hospice benefit ■ Members who have died ■ Visits that result in an inpatient stay 	Any time during measurement year (MY)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Members who had a co-morbid condition 	On or up to 12 months prior to the episode date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New or refill prescription for an antibiotic medication 	Dispensed 30 days prior to the episode date or was active on the episode date.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Episode dates that did not result in the dispensing of an antibiotic 	On or up to 3 days after the episode date.

Exclusion Codes

Code	Definition
CPT: 99377, 99378 HCPCS: G0182, G9473 - G9479, Q5003 - Q5008, Q5010, S9126, T2042 - T2046	Hospice Care
ICD10: HIV - B20, B97.35, Z21 Malignant neoplasms- C34.91, C34.92, C40.90, C50.911, C50.912, C50.919, C56.9, C62.00, C62.10, C69.10, C69.20, C69.90, C74.90, C78.00, C78.30, C78.80, C79.00, C79.10, C79.40, C79.60, C79.70, C79.9 COPD- J44.0, J44.1, J44.89, J44.9, J68.1, J70.0, J70.1, J81.0, J81.1, J82.89, J84.02, J84.03, J84.10, J84.112, J84.178, J84.82, J84.842, J84.89, J84.9, J95.1, J95.2, J95.3, P27.1 Emphysema- J43.0, J43.1, J43.2, J43.8, J43.9 Numerous types of tuberculosis- J65, O98.011, O98.012, O98.013, O98.019, O98.02, O98.03 Disorders of the immune system- D89.3, D89.82, D89.89, D89.9 Numerous types of lung disease- J84.115, J84.170, J84.848, M05.10, M05.111, M05.112, M05.119, M05.121, M05.122, M05.129, M05.131, M05.132, M05.139, M05.141, M05.142, M05.149, M05.151, M05.152, M05.159, M05.161, M05.162, M05.169, M05.171, M05.172, M05.179, M05.19	Comorbid Conditions
ICD10: A00.9, A01.00, A01.4, A02.20, A02.9, A03.9, A04.9, H66.007, H66.009, H66.42, H66.43, H66.90 -H66.93, H67.9, H70.229, H70.819, H70.899, H70.90 - H70.93, H95.00, H95.119, H95.129, H95.139, H95.199, H95.819, M89.00, M89.129, M89.139, M89.159, M89.169, M89.20, M89.40, M89.479, M89.50, M89.70, M89.9, N70.91, N70.92, N73.9, N75.9	Competing Diagnosis

Strategies for Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Discourage the use of antibiotics for routine treatment of sore throat, unless clinically indicated ■ Perform a strep test or throat culture prior to prescribing antibiotics for patients with a diagnosis of pharyngitis. ■ Educate members on the difference between bacterial and viral infections. This is the key point in the success of this measure. ■ Discuss with members ways to treat symptoms ■ If treating a patient with antibiotics for another condition, use the diagnosis code corresponding to the illness being treated with the antibiotic.
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Resources

¹ National Committee for Quality Assurance, HEDIS® Measurement Year 2025 Volume 2 Technical Specifications for Health Plans