

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



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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.

Resources

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