

Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

New for 2026

- No applicable changes for this measure



Yes!
Supplemental
data accepted

Definition

Percentage of episodes for members age 3 years and older where the member was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test within 3 days prior to or 3 days after the diagnosis day (7 days total). A higher rate indicates appropriate testing and treatment.

Plans(s) affected	Quality program(s) affected	Collection and reporting method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange/Marketplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS Quality Rating System 	Administrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim/encounter data • Pharmacy data

Codes

The following codes can be used to close HEDIS numerator gaps in care; they are not intended to be a directive of your billing practice.

Group A strep test	
CPT®/CPT II	87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650, 87651, 87652, 87880
LOINC	11268-0, 17656-0, 17898-8, 18481-2, 31971-5, 49610-9, 5036-9, 60489-2, 626-2, 6557-3, 6558-1, 6559-9, 68954-7, 78012-2, 101300-2, 103627-6, 105062-4, 105063-2

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Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP) (cont.)

Medications

The following antibiotic medications, in conjunction with a strep test, will meet compliance for this measure:

Drug category	Medications
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 potassium • Penicillin G sodium • Penicillin V potassium • Penicillin G benzathine
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

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Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP) (cont.)

Required exclusion(s)

Exclusion	Time frame
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members in hospice or using hospice services Members who died 	Any time during the measurement year

Tips and best practices to help close this care opportunity

- Do not prescribe antibiotics until results of Group A Strep test are received
- Always bill using the LOINC codes previously listed with your strep test submission – not local codes**
- Always use a point of care rapid Group A strep test or throat culture, when appropriate, to confirm diagnosis of pharyngitis before prescribing an antibiotic
- Lab results can be accepted as supplemental data. Please contact your UnitedHealthcare representative to discuss clinical data exchange opportunities.

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