


# 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"> <li>• Exchange/Marketplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS Quality Rating System</li> </ul>	<p><b>Administrative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claim/encounter data</li> <li>• Pharmacy data</li> </ul>

## 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	
<b>CPT®/CPT II</b>	87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650, 87651, 87652, 87880
<b>LOINC</b>	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
<b>Aminopenicillins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amoxicillin</li> <li>• Ampicillin</li> </ul>
<b>Beta-lactamase inhibitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amoxicillin-clavulanate</li> </ul>
<b>First generation cephalosporins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cefadroxil</li> <li>• Cefazolin</li> <li>• Cephalexin</li> </ul>
<b>Folate antagonist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trimethoprim</li> </ul>
<b>Lincomycin derivatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clindamycin</li> </ul>
<b>Macrolides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Azithromycin</li> <li>• Clarithromycin</li> <li>• Erythromycin</li> </ul>
<b>Natural penicillins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penicillin G potassium</li> <li>• Penicillin G sodium</li> <li>• Penicillin V potassium</li> <li>• Penicillin G benzathine</li> </ul>
<b>Quinolones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ciprofloxacin</li> <li>• Levofloxacin</li> <li>• Moxifloxacin</li> <li>• Ofloxacin</li> </ul>
<b>Second generation cephalosporins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cefaclor</li> <li>• Cefprozil</li> <li>• Cefuroxime</li> </ul>
<b>Sulfonamides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim</li> </ul>
<b>Tetracyclines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doxycycline</li> <li>• Minocycline</li> <li>• Tetracycline</li> </ul>
<b>Third generation cephalosporins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cefdinir</li> <li>• Cefixime</li> <li>• Cefpodoxime</li> <li>• Ceftriaxone</li> </ul>

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## Required exclusion(s)

Exclusion	Time frame
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members in hospice or using hospice services</li> <li>Members who died</li> </ul>	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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