

HEDIS MEASURE OVERVIEW

Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)

Please note that the information offered in this flyer is based on Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) technical specifications. It is not meant to replace your clinical judgment.

What is the AAB measure?

Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB) is one of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS measures. This measure assesses whether antibiotics are used to treat patients with a diagnosis of bronchitis/bronchiolitis. In those who are otherwise healthy, it is recommended to avoid prescribing antibiotics due to the possibility of developing resistance.¹

Who is included in the AAB measure?

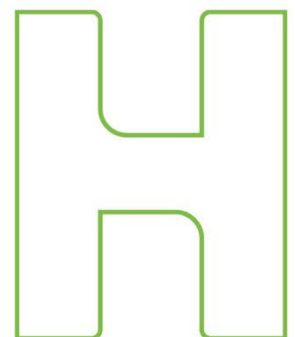
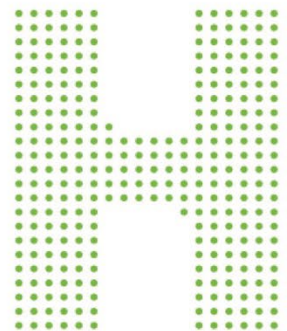
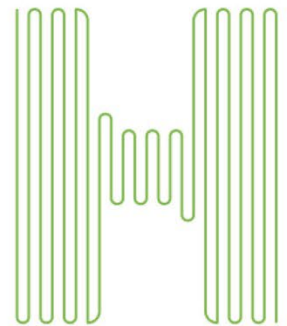
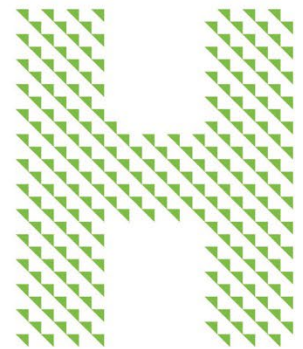
Patients 3 months old and older with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis are included.

What does compliance for this measure look like?

Measure compliance is determined by instances in which a patient with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis was not prescribed an antibiotic and a dispensing event was not produced.

Exclusions

- Patients using hospice services
- Comorbid conditions during the 12 months prior to or on the episode date
- Competing diagnosis on or three days after the episode date of pharyngitis
- Patients who died any time during the measurement year



Measure best practices

- Discuss antibiotic resistance with patients insisting on antibiotic therapy and educate them on the differences between bacterial and viral infections.
- Educate patients on symptom management and offer symptomatic treatments.
- Explain what the patient can expect for recovery time.
- Include any comorbid and competing diagnosis codes, if present, on the claim.

AAB coding

Code type	Description	Code
ICD-10	Acute bronchitis	J20.3-J21.9
CPT	Observation	99217-99220
CPT	Outpatient	99202-99205, 99211-99215, 99242-99245, 99341-99345, 99347-99350, 99381-99387, 99391-99397, 99401-99404, 99411-99412, 99429, 99455-99456, G0402, G0438-G0439, G0463, T1015
ICD-10	Pharyngitis	J02.0, J02.8-J03.01, J03.80-J03.81, J03.90-J03.91
CPT	Telephone visits	98966-98968, 99441-99443
CPT	Online assessments	98970-98972, 99421-99423, 99457-99458, G2010, G2012, G2250-G2252

1. National Committee for Quality Assurance. *Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults With Acute Bronchitis (AAB)*. Retrieved from NCQA.org: www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/avoidance-of-antibiotic-treatment-in-adults-with-acute-bronchitis-overuse-appropriateness/

ICD-10: International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision

CPT®: Current Procedural Terminology

Information regarding inclusion, compliance and exclusions for this measure were sourced from the HEDIS Measurement Year 2024: Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans report.

The codes provided in this document are limited to those that will address care opportunities for the measures included based on current guidelines. This information is subject to change and, therefore, not intended to serve as official coding or legal advice. All coding should be considered on a case-by-case basis and be supported by medical necessity and the appropriate documentation in the medical record.

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