

HEDIS MEASURE OVERVIEW

Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

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 preclude your clinical judgment.

The Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP) measure is one of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS measures. According to the NCQA, pharyngitis, or sore throat, is a leading complaint in outpatient care. It can be caused by both viral and bacterial infections; only the latter requires antibiotics. Prescribing antibiotics for viral infections has negative repercussions, such as antibiotic resistance.¹

Measure description

The percentage of episodes for patients 3 years of age and older in which the patient was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

Who is included in the CWP measure?

Patients 3 years of age and older in the measurement period (beginning July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and ending June 30 of the measurement year) who were diagnosed with pharyngitis.

Addressing the measure

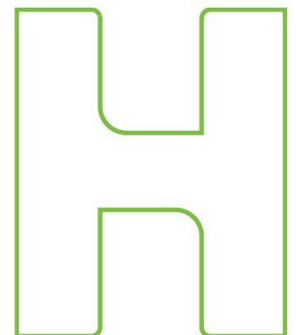
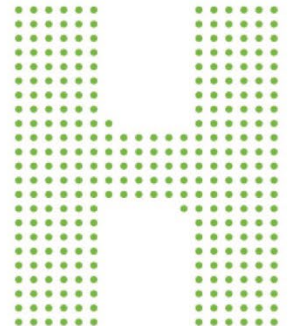
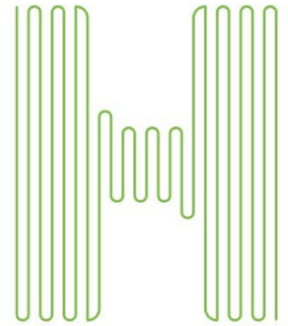
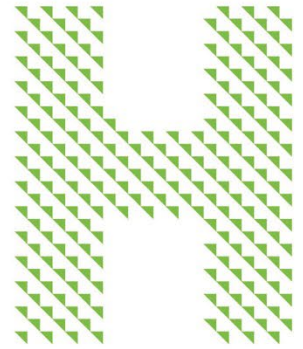
Patients become compliant by having a strep test in the seven-day period from three days prior to the episode date through three days after the episode date (episode date = the diagnosis of pharyngitis).

Measure best practices

- Perform rapid strep tests in office.
- If there are competing diagnoses requiring antibiotics, document and code accurately to reflect this.
- Educate the patient and parent/guardian on diagnosed conditions.
- If a patient tests positive for strep, counsel on the importance of isolation to prevent further outbreak.
- Document all diagnoses, results of strep tests or refusals for testing in the medical record.

Exclusions

- Patients who died anytime during the measurement year
- Patients in hospice or using hospice services anytime during the measurement year



CWP coding

Code type	Code	Description
ICD-10	J02.0	Streptococcal pharyngitis
ICD-10	J02.8	Acute pharyngitis due to other specified organisms
ICD-10	J02.9	Acute pharyngitis, unspecified
ICD-10	J03.00, J03.01	Acute streptococcal tonsillitis, unspecified; Acute recurrent streptococcal tonsillitis
ICD-10	J03.80, J03.81	Acute tonsillitis due to other specified organisms; Acute recurrent tonsillitis due to other specified organisms
ICD-10	J03.90, J03.91	Acute tonsillitis, unspecified; Acute recurrent tonsillitis, unspecified
CPT	87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650–87652, 87880	Group A strep tests

The coding included is based on the NCQA Value Set, but each state's fee schedule determines which codes are reimbursed. Please consult your respective state's fee schedule for reimbursement information.

Information regarding inclusion, compliance and exclusions for this measure were sourced from the HEDIS Measurement Year 2025: Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans report. The coding information in this document is subject to changing requirements and should not be relied on as official coding or legal advice. All coding should be considered on a case-by-case basis and supported by medical necessity and appropriate documentation in the medical record.

1. National Committee for Quality Assurance. (2025, November 20). *Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality-report/appropriate-testing-for-pharyngitis-cwp/>

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