

Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

Provider Tip Sheet

What is being measured?

This measure assesses the percentage of instances for members 3 years of age and older, where the member was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic, and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

Why is this measure important?

Overuse of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance and negative clinical outcomes for members, such as developing *Clostridioides difficile* (C.diff) infections. An increase in antibiotic-resistant infections has continued to be a concern in the United States, with 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections resulting in 35,000 deaths occurring each year.¹

Coding Guidance

Description	CPT Codes/ICD-10 Codes
Group A Strep Tests	CPT: 87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650-87652, 87880
Pharyngitis	ICD-10: J02.0, J02.8, J02.9, J03.00, J03.02, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91

Best Practices

- Provide same-day appointments, when possible, to avoid unnecessary use of the Emergency Department.
- Educate patients on the differences between viral and bacterial infections and explain why antibiotics are not recommended for viral infections. Discuss the importance of not overusing antibiotics and potential antibiotic resistance with repetitive use.
- Educate members on when they should seek further care (i.e., if symptoms persist for more than three days).
- If prescribing antibiotic treatment, discuss the importance of using the antibiotics appropriately (i.e., completing the entire course of treatment, even if the patient starts to feel better).
- Provide instructions on managing symptoms at home with OTC medications.
- Include CPT codes for the Group A streptococcus (strep) test and result when submitting claims.
- Document and code completed screenings with date and results.
- Utilize in-office testing for immediate results.
- Test for Group A streptococcus (strep) prior to prescribing antibiotic treatment.

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References

1. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control. (2019). [Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States](#).

Support

We are committed to the care and well-being of our members. We are also committed to working with you as a partner to develop the best possible treatment plans for all patients.

Please view the Provider section of our website at network.carolinacompletehealth.com for additional tools and resources. You may also contact your [Provider Engagement Administrator](#) directly for support and education.

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