

# Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

2025

Members ages 3 and older

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## Measure definition

The percentage of **episodes** where member was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic, **and** received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

**Intake period:** July 1 of year prior to measurement year to June 30 of measurement year; the intake period captures **eligible episodes** of treatment.

**Episode date:** The date of service for any outpatient, telephone, emergency department (ED) visit, e-visit or virtual check-in during the intake period **with** a diagnosis of pharyngitis.

Member **must** be continuously enrolled without a gap in coverage from 30 days prior to episode date through 3 days after episode date (34 total days).

**Numerator:** A group A streptococcus test in the 7-day period from 3 days prior to **episode date** through 3 days after **episode date**.

### The following criteria must be met to qualify for:

- **Negative medication history:**
  - A period of 30 days prior to the episode date when the member had no pharmacy claims for either new or refill prescriptions for a listed antibiotic drug.
  - No prescriptions dispensed more than 30 days prior to the episode date that are active on the episode date.
- **Negative comorbid condition history:**
  - A period of 365 days prior to and including the episode date when the member had no claims/encounters with any diagnosis for a comorbid condition (366 days total)
- **Negative competing diagnosis:**
  - The episode date and 3 days following the episode date when the member had no claims/encounters with a competing diagnosis

### Follow the steps below to identify the eligible population:

1. Identify members who had an outpatient visit, ED visit, telephone visit, e-visit or virtual check-in during the intake period **and** with a diagnosis of pharyngitis
2. Exclude visits that result in an inpatient stay
3. For each episode date with a qualifying diagnosis, determine if antibiotics were dispensed on or up to 3 days after
4. **Remove** episode dates where the member:
  - **Did not** receive antibiotics on or up to 3 days after the episode date
  - Had a claim/encounter with any diagnosis for a comorbid condition during the 365 days prior to **or** on the episode date (366 days total)
  - Were prescribed a new **or** refill prescription for an antibiotic medication **and** dispensed 30 days prior to the episode date **or** was active on the episode date
  - Had a claim/encounter with a competing diagnosis on or 3 days after the episode date
5. Calculate continuous enrollment. Member must be continuously enrolled without a gap in coverage from 30 days prior to the episode date through 3 days after the episode date (34 total days)
6. Identify visits chronologically including **only one** per 31-day period. If a member has more than one eligible episode include **only** the first eligible episode.



### Medical record requirements

- Member legal name and date of birth
- Provider/practice identifier
- Provider Business Group (PBG) name and number
- Date of service (DOS)
- Applicable lab/test results and date collected



### Commonly used claim codes\*

(Not all-inclusive)

- Group A strep tests: **87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650, 87651, 87652, 87880**
- Streptococcus (presence) by rapid immunoassay: **78012-2**
- Streptococcus pyogenes antigen assay: **122121004**

Medical record submission methods may not be applicable to all plan types.  
For more details, you can reach out to your HEDIS plan representative.

### Required exclusions (Other exclusions may also apply)

- Members in hospice care or elect to use hospice benefit during measurement year
- Members who died anytime during measurement year

### Insights and recommendations

- Confirm diagnosis by performing strep test prior to prescribing antibiotics
- Document rapid strep test results and/or throat culture
- Emphasize the importance of finishing the course of antibiotics
- Submit co-morbid diagnosis codes that apply to the visit on claim
- Form a plan for antibiotic stewardship activities, such as watchful waiting or delayed prescribing
- Educate on the difference between viral and bacterial infections
- Explain other causes for sore throats such as colds or allergies

\*FOR COMMONLY USED CODES: Not a comprehensive list of codes.

For measures that require claims data only, we cannot accept supplemental data sources such as data feeds and medical record collection methods.

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