

Background

Up to 50% of all antibiotics prescribed are not needed or are prescribed inappropriately, leading to increasing antibiotic resistance². The HEDIS measures listed below focus on decreasing inappropriate antibiotic use and require that antibiotics not be prescribed unless there is a co-morbid condition and/or an additional diagnosis where antibiotics would be indicated.

Measure	Age	Requirement (during the measurement year)
Appropriate Treatment for URI (URI)	3 months of age and older	Members with only a diagnosis of URI should NOT be prescribed an antibiotic
Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)	3 years of age and older	Members with only a diagnosis of pharyngitis should receive a strep test to confirm strep pharyngitis prior to being prescribed antibiotic
Avoidance of Antibiotics for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)	3 months of age and older	Members with only a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchitis should NOT be prescribed an antibiotic

- Hospice
- Patients with a competing diagnosis (e.g. HIV, emphysema, etc.)

Tips for best practice

- Use correct diagnosis and procedure codes (make sure to submit code for strep test on the claim if performed)
- If patient has an additional diagnosis that warrants antibiotics, please document and submit additional code(s)
- Educate patients on the difference between viral and bacterial infections and the correct usage of antibiotics

¹ HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

² <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/week/overview.html>