



IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY

Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) collects data from our providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive. Appropriate testing for pharyngitis (CWP) is one aspect of care we measure in our quality programs.*

What We Measure

We capture the percentage of episodes for members ages 3 to 18 who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode. A higher rate represents better performance, as in appropriate testing.

CWP is a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure. See the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\) website](#) for more details.

Why It Matters

Pharyngitis, or sore throat, is a leading cause of pediatric ambulatory care visits. It can be caused by bacterial strep infections, which are treated with antibiotics, or by viral infections. Proper testing for strep and treatment of pharyngitis can help prevent the spread of sickness. Testing also can reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics for viral pharyngitis.

Eligible Population

Members ages 3 (as of July 1 before the measurement year) to 18 (as of June 30 of the measurement year) are included in this measure who:

- Had an outpatient or emergency department (ED) visit with only a diagnosis of pharyngitis
- Were dispensed an antibiotic for that episode of care

Exclusions: Members are excluded who:

- Were taking antibiotics in the 30 days before the diagnosis of pharyngitis
- Used hospice during the measurement year



Ways to Improve

- Review and document the group A strep test in your records.
- Use correct procedure codes.
- Submit claims and encounter data in a timely manner.

How to Document

CWP data is collected through claims data only. Hybrid chart review doesn't apply. Include in our members' records:

- Date of service for an outpatient or ED visit with a diagnosis of pharyngitis
- Throat culture lab report
- Date and result of strep test with a diagnosis of pharyngitis
- Antibiotic prescription for the episode

For more information, see [NCQA's HEDIS Measures and Technical Resources](#).



Questions?

Contact your BCBSTX Network Representative.



* Quality measures evaluate a prior calendar year performance. Measure specifications are from the National Quality Forum (NQF) and/or National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

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