

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

Description of Measure

The percentage of episodes for members 3 months of age and older with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.¹

The measure is reported as an inverted rate. A higher rate indicates appropriate URI treatment (i.e., the proportion of episodes that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.)

Numerator Compliance

Dispensed prescription for an antibiotic medication from the AAB Antibiotic Medications List on or 3 days after the Episode Date.

AB Antibiotic Medications

Description	Prescription
Aminoglycosides	■ Amikacin ■ Gentamicin ■ Streptomycin ■ Tobramycin
Aminopenicillins	■ Amoxicillin ■ Ampicillin
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	■ Amoxicillin-clavulanate ■ Ampicillin-sulbactam ■ Piperacillin-tazobactam
First-generation cephalosporins	■ Cefadroxil ■ Cephalexin
Lincomycin derivatives	■ Clindamycin ■ Lincomycin
Macrolides	■ Azithromycin ■ Clarithromycin ■ Erythromycin



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AAB Antibiotic Medications (continued)

Description	Prescription
Miscellaneous antibiotics	■ Aztreonam ■ Chloramphenicol ■ Dalfopristin-quinupristin ■ Daptomycin ■ Linezolid ■ Metronidazole ■ Vancomycin
Natural penicillins	■ Penicillin G benzathine-procaine ■ Penicillin G potassium ■ Penicillin G procaine ■ Penicillin G sodium ■ Penicillin V potassium ■ Penicillin G benzathine
Penicillinase resistant penicillins	■ Dicloxacillin ■ Nafcillin ■ Oxacillin
Quinolones	■ Ciprofloxacin ■ Gemifloxacin ■ Levofloxacin ■ Moxifloxacin ■ Ofloxacin
Rifamycin derivatives	■ Cefdinir ■ Cefixime ■ Cefpodoxime ■ Ceftriaxone
Second-generation cephalosporin	■ Rifampin
Sulfonamides	■ Sulfadiazine ■ Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim
Tetracyclines	■ Doxycycline ■ Minocycline ■ Tetracycline
Third-generation cephalosporins	■ Cefdinir ■ Cefixime ■ Cefotaxime ■ Cefpodoxime Cefotaxime ■ Ceftriaxone
Urinary anti-infectives	■ Fosfomycin ■ Nitrofurantoin ■ Nitrofurantoin macrocrystals-monohydrate ■ Trimethoprim

Codes	DESCRIPTIONS
ICD10: J00, J06.0, J06.9	URI
ICD10: J02.0, J02.8, J02.9, J03.00, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91	Pharyngitis
CPT: 98000 – 98016, 98966 – 98968, 98970 – 98972, 98979-98981, 99202 – 99205, 99211 – 99215, 99242 – 99245, 99281 – 99285, 99341, 99342, 99344, 99345, 99347 – 99350, 99381 – 99387, 99391 – 99397, 99401 – 99404, 99411, 99412, 99421 – 99423, 99429, 99441-99443, 99455-99458, 99470, 99483 HCPCS: G0071, G0402, G0438, G0439, G0463, G0544, G2010, G2012, G2250 - G2252, T1015	Outpatient Visit or Telehealth

Exclusions

Exclusions	Time limit
- Members who use hospice services) or elect to use a hospice benefit - Members who have died - Visits that result in an inpatient stay	Any time during measurement year (MY)

Exclusion Codes

Code	Definition
CPT: 99377, 99378 HCPCS: G0182, G9473 - G9479, Q5003 - Q5008, Q5010, S9126, T2042 - T2046	Hospice Care

Strategies for Success	- If a member tests negative for group A strep but insists on an antibiotic: - Refer to the illness as a sore throat due to a cold; members tend to associate the label with a less frequent need for antibiotics. - Write a prescription for symptom relief, like over-the-counter medications - Educate members on the difference between bacterial vs viral infections. - Avoid treating viral syndromes with antibiotics, even if they are requested - Discuss with members ways to treat symptoms

Resources

¹ National Committee for Quality Assurance, HEDIS® Measurement Year 2026 Volume 2 Technical Specifications for Health Plans