

## Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

Patients 3 years and older who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

### Exclusions

- Comorbidities present at or within the 12 months prior to the encounter; including HIV, Malignant Neoplasms, Emphysema, COPD, and Disorders of the Immune System.
- Diagnosis of another infection requiring antibiotics on or within 3 days after the encounter.
- An antibiotic medication dispensed within the 30 days prior to the pharyngitis encounter.
- Encounters that result in an inpatient stay.

### Relevant Codes

The following codes may support gap closure through claims. Compliance depends on meeting HEDIS-defined criteria, including timing, documentation, and qualifying services—not code submission alone.

Code	Description
J02.0, J02.8, J02.9, J03.0, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91 (ICD-10)	Qualifying Pharyngitis Diagnosis
87070-71, 87081, 87430, 87650-52, 87880 (CPT)	Group A Strep Test

### Common Documentation Insufficiencies

- Rapid strep test or throat culture must be completed prior to prescribing antibiotics.
- Failing to document comorbidities and/or competing diagnoses.
- Clinical findings alone do not adequately confirm strep.

## Documentation Requirements

- Documentation must include:
  - Test result
  - Date of service
- Diagnosis of pharyngitis with date and positive result of strep test/throat culture.
- Prescription dispensing data is captured via pharmacy claims.
- Antibiotics with a strep test that meet compliance for this quality measure:

Amoxicillin	Cefprozil	Minocycline
Amoxicillin-Clavulanate	Ceftibuten	Moxifloxacin
Ampicillin	Ceftriaxone	Ofloxacin
Azithromycin	Cefuroxime	Penicillin G Benzathine
Cefaclor	Cephalexin	Penicillin G Potassium
Cefadroxil	Ciprofloxacin	Penicillin G Sodium
Cefazolin	Clarithromycin	Penicillin V Potassium
Cefdinir	Clindamycin	Sulfamethoxazole-Trimethoprim
Cefditoren	Doxycycline	Tetracycline
Cefixime	Erythromycin	Trimethoprim
Cefpodoxime	Levofloxacin	

## Best Practices

- Upload results of strep tests/throat cultures to EMR and label clearly for easy identification.
- A group A strep test or throat culture must be performed for episodes where antibiotics are dispensed.
- Review Innovaccer Dashboards and/or InNote for patients identified as non-compliant for this measure and provide education to clinicians as appropriate.
- For patients with negative group A strep results, educate patients and caregivers on appropriate antibiotic use and the risks of overuse (i.e., resistance to future bacterial strains), and instead recommend at-home treatments to help alleviate symptoms.