

Measure specifications: Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis

Metric information

Metric description: The percentage of episodes for members 3 years and older where the member was diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

Metric specification version: HEDIS® Measurement Year 2024 Technical Specifications for Health Plans, NCQA.

Data collection method: Administrative only.

Data source: ProviderOne Medicaid claims/encounter and enrollment data.

Claim status: Include only final paid claims or accepted encounters in metric calculation.

Identification window: Measurement year.

Direction of quality improvement: Higher is better.

URL of specifications: [NCQA HEDIS measures](#)

Metric Details

Eligible population

Measure	Description
Age	Members who were 3 years or older as of the episode date.
Gender	N/A
Minimum Medicaid enrollment	30 days prior to the episode date through 3 days after the episode date (34 total days).
Allowable gap in Medicaid enrollment	None
Medicaid enrollment anchor date	None
Medicaid benefit and eligibility	Includes Medicaid beneficiaries with comprehensive medical benefits. Excludes beneficiaries that are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid and beneficiaries with primary insurance other than Medicaid.

Denominator

Data elements required for denominator:

Medicaid beneficiaries who meet the above eligibility criteria.

Required exclusions for denominator:

Members who use hospice services or elect to use a hospice benefit any time during the measurement year.

Members who die any time during the measurement year.

Numerator

Requirements:

Beneficiaries must qualify for inclusion in the denominator to be eligible for inclusion in the numerator.

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

Required exclusions for numerator:

None

Version control

December 2025: Metric added to Healthier Washington Dashboard.