

AVOIDANCE OF ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT FOR ACUTE BRONCHITIS/BRONCHIOLITIS

Anthem Quality Measure Definitions



The Children's
Care Network

MEASURE DEFINITION

The measure identifies the percentage of episodes for members ages 3 months and older with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis or bronchiolitis who were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription.

NUMERATOR

Episode in the denominator who were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription in the 3 days after diagnosis.

DENOMINATOR

All patients aged 3 months or older with an outpatient visit, telephone visit, e-visit or virtual check-in, observation visit or emergency department (ED) visit with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis during the measurement period.

HEDIS MEASURE

This measure is a HEDIS measure.

The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) is one of health care's most widely used performance improvement tools used by more than 90 percent of U.S. health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service.

Source: [NCQA](#)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Numerator

- Episode with no prescription claim for antibiotic medications in the 3 days after the bronchitis/bronchiolitis diagnosis.

Denominator

- Age 3 months and older as of the Episode Date and as of the last day of the Measurement Period
- At least 1 claim from an outpatient visit (with or without a telehealth modifier), a telephone visit, an online assessment, an observation visit, or an ED visit during the Intake Period (3-368 days before the last day of the Measurement Period), with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis
 - Exclude visits that resulted in an inpatient admission
- AND have member and prescription eligibility from 30 days prior to the Episode Date through three days after the Episode Date (34 total days), No gaps

Exclusions

- Prescription claims for antibiotic medications in the month before diagnosis
- OR claims with a diagnosis for HIV, HIV- type 2, malignant neoplasms, emphysema, COPD, cystic fibrosis, disorders of the immune system or comorbid conditions in any position in the year before diagnosis
- OR claims with a diagnosis for pharyngitis from 30 days before to 7 days after diagnosis

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WHY IT MATTERS

Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis almost always gets better on its own; therefore, individuals without other health problems should not be prescribed an antibiotic. Ensuring the appropriate use of antibiotics for individuals with acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis will help them avoid harmful side-effects and possible resistance to antibiotics over time.

Antibiotic resistance is a major health concern in the United States, with 2.8 antibiotic-resistant infections and 35,000 deaths occurring annually.

Source: [NCQA](#)

Additional Resource: Centers for Disease Prevention and Control "[Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States](#)"

APPROPRIATE CODING

Included below is a list of applicable codes for bronchitis / bronchiolitis.

J20.3	Acute bronchitis due to coxsackievirus
J20.4	Acute bronchitis due to parainfluenza virus
J20.5	Acute bronchitis due to respiratory syncytial virus
J20.6	Acute bronchitis due to rhinovirus
J20.7	Acute bronchitis due to echovirus
J20.8	Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms
J20.9	Acute bronchitis, unspecified
J21.0	Acute bronchiolitis due to respiratory syncytial virus
J21.1	Acute bronchiolitis due to human metapneumovirus
J21.8	Acute bronchiolitis due to other specified organisms
J21.9	Acute bronchiolitis, unspecified

HELPFUL TIPS

- By working together our network can improve performance in this measure.
- A higher rate indicates better performance.
- Every patient's evaluation and treatment are unique, and your clinical evaluation will determine if antibiotics are needed for each individual patient.
- A key factor in success of this measure is educating patients on the difference between bacterial and viral infections.
- Use proper coding. *Appropriate coding can be a challenge with bronchiolitis since symptoms like wheezing and cold symptoms can be a part of many acute and chronic clinical conditions in children. Please remember to use the appropriate code for bronchiolitis if it is clinically appropriate and avoid coding for the symptoms.*
- Provide handout such as [these](#) from the CDC, explaining that viruses, not bacteria, cause colds and flu.