



Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

CWP Measure Description¹

Assesses the percentage of episodes for members 3 years of age and older with a diagnosis of pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus test for the episode. A higher rate indicates completion of the appropriate testing required to merit antibiotic treatment for pharyngitis.

Why is CWP Important?¹

Pharyngitis, or sore throat, is a leading cause of outpatient care and can be caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Viral pharyngitis does not require antibiotic treatment, but antibiotics continue to be inappropriately prescribed. Proper testing and treatment of pharyngitis prevents the spread of sickness, while reducing unnecessary use of antibiotics. The misuse of antibiotics can have adverse clinical outcomes such as *Clostridioides difficile* infections and has public health implications including encouragement of antibiotic resistance (when antibiotics can no longer cure bacterial infections). Antibiotic resistance is a major health concern in the United States, with 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections and 35,000 deaths occurring annually.

Best Practices

- ✓ This measure addresses appropriate treatment for pharyngitis with a strep test and, if appropriate, prescription of an antibiotic within three days of the test.
- ✓ A pharyngitis diagnosis can be from an outpatient visit, online assessment, telehealth visit, emergency department or observation visit between July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and June 30 of the measurement year that did not result in an inpatient stay.
- ✓ Evaluate your prescribing habits and form a plan for antibiotic stewardship activities, such as watchful waiting or delayed prescribing.
- ✓ Reference the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/hcp/data-research/stewardship-report.html>

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¹ Source: <https://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality-report/measures-list/>

² Source: HEDIS MY 2025 Tech Specs Manual Vol. 2

Numerator Compliance²

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.

Data Collection Method²

Administrative (Claims)



Trillium Percentages/NCQA National Averages¹

CWP	Measurement Year	Trillium	NCQA National Average
Total	2023	-	77.89
	2022	-	71.0

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