

## Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis (NQF 0002)

<b>EMeasure Name</b>	Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis	<b>EMeasure Id</b>	Pending
<b>Version Number</b>	1	<b>Set Id</b>	Pending
<b>Available Date</b>	No information	<b>Measurement Period</b>	January 1, 20xx through December 31, 20xx
<b>Measure Steward</b>	National Committee for Quality Assurance		
<b>Endorsed by</b>	National Quality Forum		
<b>Description</b>	The percentage of children 2-18 years of age who were diagnosed with Pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.		
<b>Measure scoring</b>	Proportion		
<b>Measure type</b>	Process		
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>This measure assesses the proportion of age-appropriate children diagnosed with pharyngitis who were prescribed an antibiotic at an outpatient visit and who received a group A streptococcus (group A strep) test. Pharyngitis occurs in all age groups, but those aged 5-18 years have the highest incidence of streptococcal infections. A physician's clinical diagnosis can be validated with an objective diagnostic (group A strep) test. This test, which is widely available to practitioners, can result in a reduction of two-thirds of antibiotic consumption of pharyngitis while maintaining significant benefits for patients. In a recent nationwide physician survey, however, 42% of physicians reported that they would start antibiotic treatment for children with pharyngitis before knowing the results of a group A strep test, and would continue treatment regardless. This measure is important because it requires initial antigen screening to ensure accurate diagnosis and promotes judicious use of antibiotics and reduction of antibiotic overuse.</p>		
<b>Clinical Recommendation Statement</b>	<p>Clinical practice guidelines recommend group A streptococcus pharyngitis be treated with antibiotics.</p> <p>Specifically, the guidelines set out 3 principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diagnosis of group A strep. pharyngitis is based on appropriate lab tests and clinical/epidemiological findings</li> <li>2. Antibiotics are only given with a <u>diagnosis of group A strep. pharyngitis</u> or other bacterial infection</li> <li>3. Penicillin is the drug of choice for group A strep. pharyngitis</li> </ol> <p>The group A strep. test (rapid assay or throat culture) is the definitive test of group A strep. pharyngitis. Pharyngitis is the only respiratory tract infection with an objective diagnostic test that can be validated with administrative data, and not medical records. A process measure that requires the performance of a group A strep. test for children given antibiotics for pharyngitis is supported by the guidelines.</p>		

<b>References</b>	Schwartz B, Marcy SM, Phillips WR, Gerber MA, Dowell SF. Pharyngitis - principles of judicious use of antimicrobial agents. Pediatrics 1998; 101(1):171-174.
<b>Definitions</b>	

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*Please refer to the spreadsheet for this measure for detail regarding date criteria and code lists.*

## Population criteria

- **Initial Patient Population =**
  - AND: "Patient characteristic: birth date" (age) >=2 and <=18 years;
- **Denominator =**
  - AND: All patients in the initial patient population;
  - AND: "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
  - AND: "Diagnosis active: pharyngitis";
  - AND:
    - OR: "Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics" <= 3 days after or simultaneously to "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
    - OR: "Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics" <= 3 days after or simultaneously to "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
    - OR "Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics" <= 3 days after or simultaneously to "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
  - AND NOT:
    - OR: "Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics" <= 30 days before "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
    - OR: "Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics" <= 30 days before "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
    - OR "Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics" <= 30 days before "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
- **Numerator =**
  - OR: "Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcus test" <= 3 days before or simultaneously to "Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics", occurring <= 3 days after "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";
  - OR: "Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcus test" <= 3 days before or simultaneously to "Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics", occurring <= 3 days after "Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics";

- OR: “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcus test” <= 3 days before or simultaneously to “Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics”, occurring <= 3 days after “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
- OR: “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcal test” <= 3 days after or simultaneously to “Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics”, occurring <= 3 days after “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
- OR: “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcal test” <= 3 days after or simultaneously to “Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics”, occurring <= 3 days after “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
- OR: “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcal test” <= 3 days after or simultaneously to “Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics”, occurring <= 3 days after “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
- **Exclusions =**
  - None;

**Data criteria (QDS Data Elements)**

- **Initial Patient Population =**
  - AND: "Patient characteristic: birth date" age using "birth date code list" before the beginning of the "measurement period";
- **Denominator =**
  - “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics” using “encounter ambulatory including pediatrics code list grouping” during the “measurement period”;
  - “Diagnosis active: pharyngitis” using “pharyngitis code list grouping” during “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
  - “Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics” using “pharyngitis antibiotics code list grouping” after or simultaneously to “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
  - “Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics” using “pharyngitis antibiotics code list grouping” after or simultaneously to “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
  - “Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics” using “pharyngitis antibiotics code list grouping” after or simultaneously to “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
  - “Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics” using “pharyngitis antibiotics code list grouping” before “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
  - “Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics” using “pharyngitis antibiotics code list grouping” before “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
  - “Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics” using “pharyngitis antibiotics code list grouping” before “Encounter: encounter ambulatory including pediatrics”;
- **Numerator =**

- “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcus test” using “group A streptococcus test code list grouping” before or simultaneously to “Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics”;
  - “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcus test” using “group A streptococcus test code list grouping” before or simultaneously to “Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics”;
  - “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcus test” using “group A streptococcus test code list grouping” before or simultaneously to “Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics”;
  - “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcal test” using “group A streptococcus test code list grouping” after or simultaneously to “Medication active: pharyngitis antibiotics”;
  - “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcal test” using “group A streptococcus test code list grouping” after or simultaneously to “Medication order: pharyngitis antibiotics”;
  - “Laboratory test performed: group A streptococcal test” using “group A streptococcus test code list grouping” after or simultaneously to “Medication dispensed: pharyngitis antibiotics”;
- **Exclusions =**
    - None;

**Summary calculation**

Calculation is generic to all measures:

- Calculate the final denominator by adding all that meet denominator criteria.
- Subtract from the final denominator all that do not meet numerator criteria yet also meet exclusion criteria. Note some measures do not have exclusion criteria.
- The performance calculation is the number meeting numerator criteria divided by the final denominator.
- For measures with multiple patient populations, repeat this process for each patient population and report each result separately.
- For measures with multiple numerators, calculate each numerator separately within each population using the paired exclusion.

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<b>Measure set</b>	CLINICAL QUALITY MEASURE SET 2011-2012
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