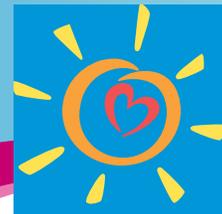




HEDIS Hospital Tip: Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis

Treatment Setting: ED/Urgent Care



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN®

HEDIS® (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set) is a standardized set of performance measurements developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for measuring quality health care performance.

As a part of L.A. Care's initiative to improve quality of care for our members, this HEDIS® reference guide is designed to help achieve the best quality care, in alignment with the HEDIS® standards as well as with evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. This reference material may also provide guidance on accurate and complete documentation as well as timely data submission to L.A. Care.

Pharyngitis is a leading cause of pediatric ambulatory care visits in an Urgent Care or a hospital ER. Bacterial Pharyngitis is primarily caused by group A beta-hemolytic streptococci (GABHS) and can be validated through lab results. A throat culture or strep test should be administered as an indicator for appropriate antibiotic use. Unnecessary prescription of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance.

WHAT CAN HOSPITALS DO?

- ▶ Perform a rapid strep test to confirm diagnosis before prescribing antibiotics.
- ▶ Begin antibiotic therapy **ONLY** if the rapid strep test is positive. Use Penicillin or Amoxicillin as the drug of choice.
- ▶ If strep screen is negative, educate parents/caregivers on the difference between viral vs. bacterial infections.
- ▶ Use ICD-10 **J02.8** and **J02.9** and CPT code **87880** for billing and HEDIS compliance.
- ▶ Encourage follow-up with PCP if strep test is negative, if no relief within 3-5 days, or if symptoms worsen.
- ▶ To access or download a copy of this reference guide and other reference materials, please visit: <http://www.lacare.org/providers/provider-resources/hedis-resources>.



The HEDIS Operations team is here to support quality patient care and ensure the care you provide members is reflected in your HEDIS performance. Send any email inquiries our way, along with the best time/day and phone number to reach you. We will reach out to you within 3 business days. HEDISOps@lacare.org - All emails containing member PHI MUST be securely encrypted.