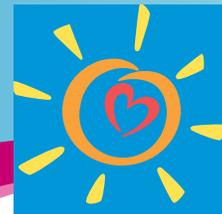


# HEDIS Hospital Tip: Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis

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.

Acute bronchitis (inflammation of the bronchial tubes) is a short-term respiratory illness, most commonly characterized by a cough, with or without sputum production. Bronchitis typically lasts from three to six weeks and in most cases is viral in origin. Routine treatment of uncomplicated acute bronchitis with antibiotics is not warranted nor recommended. The unnecessary overuse of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance and should be avoided.

## WHAT CAN HOSPITALS DO?

- ▶ Avoid prescribing antibiotics as a routine treatment for acute bronchitis.
- ▶ Educate patient/caregiver on the difference between viral vs. bacterial infections. Evidence reveals this leads to a more satisfying encounter than receiving a prescription for an antibiotic.
- ▶ Use "chest cold" rather than acute bronchitis in patient communications. This is more readily accepted by the patient/caregiver when an antibiotic is not prescribed.
- ▶ Use ICD-10 CM code **J20.0 – J20.9** for proper billing and HEDIS compliance.
- ▶ Encourage patient to quit smoking if a smoker.
- ▶ Encourage follow-up in 5 days if no relief or sooner 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](mailto:HEDISOps@lacare.org) - All emails containing member PHI MUST be securely encrypted.