

# Reducing Antibiotic Resistance

It is important to reduce antibiotic use for treatment of viral diseases as the overuse may reduce the effectiveness and lead to antibiotic resistance in the future for the patient. It is essential that patients have appropriate testing, diagnosis and treatment.

The Quality Rating System (QRS) utilizes the following performance measures to monitor appropriate antibiotic provision:

Measurement	Description
Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)	Measures the percentage of children ages 3 years and older who were diagnosed with pharyngitis and were dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus test.
Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)	Measures the percentage of children ages 3 months and older who were given a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection and were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription.*
Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)	Measures the percentage of children ages 3 months and older who were diagnosed with acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis and were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription.*

*\*If a bacterial infection is suspected, complete appropriate testing to verify diagnosis prior to prescribing antibiotics.*

Strategies for Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate caregivers on the difference between viral and bacterial infections.</li> <li>• Suggest at home treatments, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using over-the-counter cough medicine</li> <li>• Drinking extra fluids and resting</li> <li>• Using a nasal irrigation device or steamy shower for nasal and sinus congestion relief</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Educate caregivers on ways to avoid spreading the germs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washing hands for at least 20 seconds</li> <li>• Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth</li> <li>• Cover cough or sneeze with tissue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Below are a list of billing code examples for testing and diagnosis:

Description	Billing Codes
Group A Strep Testing	87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650, 87651, 87652, 87880
Upper Respiratory Infection	J00, J06.0, J06.9
Acute Bronchitis/ Bronchiolitis	J20.3, J20.4, J20.5, J20.6, J20.7, J20.8, J20.9 Bronchiolitis: J21.1, J21.8, J21.9
<i>The codes above are examples only and not coding recommendations.</i>	