

Measure Description

Adults 18-64 years of age diagnosed with acute bronchitis should not be dispensed an antibiotic within 3 days of the visit.

Note: Prescribing antibiotics for acute bronchitis is not indicated unless there is a comorbid diagnosis or a bacterial infection (see examples listed on the right).

Only about 10% of cases for acute bronchitis are due to a bacterial infection, so in most cases antibiotics will not help.

Using Correct Billing Codes

Codes to Identify Acute Bronchitis

Description	ICD-10 Code*
Acute Bronchitis	J20.3-J20.9

Codes to Identify Comorbid Conditions

Description	ICD-9 Code	ICD-10 Code*
Chronic Bronchitis	491	J41.0, J41.1, J41.8, J42
Emphysema	492.0, 492.8	J43.0 – J43.2, J43.8, J43.9, J98.2, J98.3
COPD	493.20, 493.21, 493.22, 496	J44.0, J44.1, J44.9

Codes to Identify Competing Diagnoses

Description	ICD-10 Code*
Acute Sinusitis	J01.80, J01.90
Otitis Media	H66, H67
Pharyngitis	J02.0, J02.8, J02.9
Streptococcal Tonsillitis	J03.00, J03.01, J03.80
Acute Tonsillitis	J03.81, J03.90, J03.91

* ICD-10 -CM codes are to be used on or after 10/1/2015.

How to Improve HEDIS® Scores

- Educate patients on comfort measures without antibiotics (e.g., extra fluids and rest).
- Discuss realistic expectations for recovery time (e.g., cough can last for 4 weeks without being “abnormal”).
- For patients insisting on an antibiotic:
 - Give a brief explanation
 - Educate regarding symptom relief instead of an antibiotic.
 - Encourage follow-up in 3 days if symptoms do not get better.
- Submit comorbid diagnosis codes if present on claim/encounter (see codes above).
- Submit competing diagnosis codes for bacterial infection if present on claim/encounter (see codes above).