

# Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis

## HEDIS® Provider Guide:

### Measure Description

Patients 3 years of age and older diagnosed with pharyngitis and dispensed an antibiotic should have received a Group A strep test within 3 days prior to the diagnosis date through the 3 days after the diagnosis date.

### Using Correct Billing Codes

#### Codes to Identify Pharyngitis

Description	ICD-10 Code
<b>Acute Pharyngitis</b>	J02.8, J02.9
<b>Acute Tonsillitis</b>	J03.00, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91
<b>Streptococcal Sore Throat</b>	J02.0

#### Codes to Identify Strep Throat

Description	CPT Code
<b>Strep Test</b>	87070, 87071, 87081, 87430, 87650-87652, <b>87880**</b>

*\*\*Rapid strep tests are reimbursed fee for service when billed timely with code 87880.*

### How to Improve HEDIS® Scores

- Perform a rapid strep test or throat culture to confirm diagnosis before prescribing antibiotics. Submit this test to CHA for payment, or as a record that you performed the test. Use the codes above.
- Clinical findings alone do not adequately distinguish Strep vs. non-Strep pharyngitis.
- Submit any co-morbid diagnosis codes that apply on claim/encounter.
- If rapid strep test and/or throat culture is negative, educate parents/caregivers that an antibiotic is not necessary for viral infections.
- Additional resources for clinicians and parents/caregivers about pharyngitis can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/index.html>