

Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)

Overuse of antibiotics for acute bronchitis can lead to antibiotic resistance. Avoidance of antibiotic use among adults with acute bronchitis, but who are otherwise healthy, also helps prevent harmful side-effects.ⁱ

APPLICABLE LINES OF BUSINESS

- Commercial
- Medicare Advantage

MEASURE DESCRIPTION

The percentage of episodes for members ages 3 months and older with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.ⁱⁱ

Note: A higher rate indicates appropriate treatment of adults with acute bronchitis.

EXCLUSION

- Emergency department, outpatient or observation visits that result in a hospitalization.
- Received hospice care during the measurement year
- Diagnosis for a comorbidity during the 12 months prior to or on the onset of the illness.
- Episode dates where a new or refill prescription for an antibiotic medication was filled 30 days prior to the episode date or was active on the episode date.
- Patients who had a claim/encounter with any competing diagnosis, including pharyngitis, on or 3 days after the onset of the illness.

INFORMATION THAT PATIENT MEDICAL RECORDS SHOULD INCLUDE

- Patient name and date of birth
- Index Episode Start Date (IESD)
- Diagnosis of acute bronchitis on IESD

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Often patients want an antibiotic to treat their symptoms. Explain that an antibiotic can't treat a viral infection and unnecessary use of antibiotics can cause antibiotic drug resistance.
- If the patient insists on an antibiotic, refer to the illness as a "chest cold" or viral upper respiratory infection.
- If you prescribe an antibiotic for a bacterial infection, use the diagnosis code for the bacterial infection and/or comorbid condition. Choosingwisely.org has downloadable resources that you can give to patients as handouts to educate them about overuse of antibiotics. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

- Recommend at-home treatments including:
 - Over-the-counter cough medicine
 - Extra fluids and rest
 - Nasal irrigation devices
 - Steamy, hot showers

ⁱ Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis (Overuse/Appropriateness). In: NCQA.

<https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/avoidance-of-antibiotic-treatment-in-adults-with-acute-bronchitis-overuse-appropriateness>

ⁱⁱ National Committee for Quality Assurance. HEDIS® 2020 Volume 2 Technical Specifications for Health Plans (2019), 334-339