HEDIS Measure: Acute Bronchitis
Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis

This tip sheet details the key aspects of this specific HEDIS measure, provides useful administrative aids and offers guidance and resources for urgent care.

What is the measure?
This measure is the percentage of adults ages 18 to 64 years with a diagnosis of uncomplicated acute bronchitis who were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription.

Why this measure is important
Research on antibiotics and acute bronchitis concludes that antibiotics reduce coughing slightly, but may cause side effects and contribute to antibiotic resistance. [http://www.webmd.com/lung/antibiotics-for-acute-bronchitis](http://www.webmd.com/lung/antibiotics-for-acute-bronchitis)

### Antibiotic Safety

**Antibiotics are responsible for almost 1 out of 5 emergency room visits for adverse drug events.**

**Antibiotics are the most common cause of emergency room visits for adverse drug events in children under 18 years of age.**

### CDC’s Recommended Treatment for Adults with Acute Bronchitis

**Acute Uncomplicated Bronchitis**

- Cough is the most common symptom for which adult patients visit their primary care provider, and acute bronchitis is the most common diagnosis in these patients
- Evaluation should focus on ruling out pneumonia, which is rare among otherwise healthy adults in the absence of abnormal vital signs (heart rate ≥ 100 beats/min. respiratory rate ≥ 24 breaths/min. or oral temperature ≥ 38°C) and abnormal lung examination findings (focal consolidation, egophony, fremitus)
- Colored sputum does not indicate bacterial infection
- For most cases, chest radiography is not indicated

Routine treatment of uncomplicated acute bronchitis with antibiotics is not recommended regardless of cough duration.

Options for symptomatic therapy include:

- Cough suppressants (codeine, dextromethorphan)
- First-generation antihistamines (diphenhydramine)
- Decongestants (phenylephrine)
- Beta agonists (albuterol)

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HEDIS Measure: Acute Bronchitis – Urgent Care
Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis
(continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>ICD-10-CM Diagnosis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronchiectasis</td>
<td>J47</td>
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<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>J44.0 - J44.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic bronchitis</td>
<td>J41.0 - J42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cystic fibrosis</td>
<td>E84 family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sickle Cell Disease with Acute Chest</td>
<td>D57.01, D57.211, D57.411, D57.811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emphysema</td>
<td>J43 family</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV disease; asymptomatic HIV</td>
<td>B20 and Z21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malignancy neoplasms</td>
<td>C00.0 - C96.Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other diseases of the respiratory system</td>
<td>B 44.81, J22, J80 - J96.92, J99, M30.1, M32.13, M33.01, M33.11, M33.21, M33.91, M34.81, M35.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pneumoconiosis and other lung disease due to</td>
<td>J60-J68.3, J68.9, J70 - J70.9</td>
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<td>external agents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>A15 - A19.9, O98.011 - O98.03</td>
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For more information about HEDIS measure Specifications and Evidence for Rationale, please refer to the NCQA website or the DHHS ARHQ website:

On January 1, 2014, coding tables were replaced with HEDIS “value sets.” A value set is the complete set of codes used to identify a service or condition included in a measure. Access the NCQA link to obtain detailed information on 2015 technical specifications and data sets:

Additional Resources
The CDC has an extensive GETSMART campaign that includes patient and provider materials that address inappropriate antibiotic use: www.cdc.gov/getsmart/campaign-materials/print-materials.html
CDC information for outpatient providers including patient materials: