



# Aetna Better Health<sup>®</sup> of Kansas

## HEDIS<sup>®</sup> News you can use



## Improving Appropriate Use of Antibiotics

### Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

#### Measure requirements:

- Percentage of members 3 months of age and older who were given a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection and were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription.
- Higher rate indicates appropriate treatment (i.e. the proportion for whom antibiotics were NOT prescribed).

### Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)

#### Measure requirements:

- Members 3 months of age and older with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis who were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription.
- Higher rate indicates appropriate treatment of adults with Acute Bronchitis (i.e. the proportion for whom antibiotics were NOT prescribed).

### Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis (CWP)

#### Measure requirements:

- Percentage of members 3 years of age and older who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

## Common reasons for Gaps in Care:

- Receiving a script for an antibiotic for a viral infection, without a concurrent diagnosis that would require an antibiotic.
- CWP - Receiving an antibiotic without a strep test/confirmed strep diagnosis and filling the prescription when not necessary.
- Concurrent diagnosis/diagnoses not coded on a claim that require an antibiotic (i.e. sinusitis, otitis media, etc.).



## Best Practices

- Educate members and parents regarding symptomatic treatment and when to contact their Primary Care Physician (PCP).
- Educate regarding bacterial versus viral infections. Educate that an antibiotic is not necessary for viral infections, and if rapid strep test and/or culture is negative.
- Educate and recommend symptomatic/conservative treatments such as over-the-counter (OTC) medicine and comfort measures.
- If there are no transportation issues, consider not giving parent/guardian a prescription and instead have them call your office in three days if child is not feeling better.
- Perform a group A strep test on all individuals treated with an antibiotic for pharyngitis.
- Ensure the appropriate use of antibiotics for individuals with acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis will help them avoid harmful side-effects and possible resistance to antibiotics over time.
- Be sure to code for the strep test when submitting the claim.
- Be sure to code for ALL appropriate diagnoses relevant to the visit.
- Code for concurrent bacterial infections/diagnoses.
- Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC)/Rural Health Clinics (RHC) – When billing a T1015 encounter code, it is essential to also list on the claim the actual CPT/HCPCS procedure codes to identify the services included in the encounter.
- Use appropriate testing/symptom documentation to correlate with antibiotic prescription.
- If there is a competing diagnosis requiring antibiotics, be sure documentation and coding accurately reflect diagnosis/diagnoses.

**Patients trust you** - Patients consider you their most trusted source of information when it comes to their health. When talking to patients, encourage and allow time for questions.

### **Thank you for the care you provide to our members**

For questions or for more information, please contact Quality Management Department at **ABHKS\_QM\_Operations@aetna.com**.