



Your Patients Need Your Expertise

Antibiotics won't treat most upper respiratory infections, which are caused by viruses. By educating your patients about the correct use of antibiotics and prescribing them only when needed, everybody wins.

About 80 percent of antibiotics prescribed for acute respiratory infections are unnecessary, according to the CDC.*

EmblemHealth Is Here to Support You

Our members count on you to stay healthy. It's important that you be familiar with these HEDIS quality measures for antibiotic prescribing.

HEDIS Measure	Goal	Lines of Business
Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)	Assess the percentage of patients three months of age and older with a diagnosis of Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis or Upper Respiratory Infection that DO NOT result in an antibiotic prescription.	Medicare Medicaid Commercial
Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)		

Help Your Patients. Protect Public Health.

Follow these guidelines to ensure that your patients get the treatment they need, and that public health remains strong.

- Follow clinical guidelines by only prescribing antibiotics when they are needed.
- Prescribe the right antibiotics at the right dose for the right duration at the right time.
- Practice delayed prescribing.
- Educate patients on how they can relieve symptoms for viral illnesses.
- Tell your patients why they don't need antibiotics for a viral infection, what to do to feel better, and when to seek care again if they don't feel better.
- Talk to your patients and their families about possible harms from antibiotics, such as allergic reactions, side effects, *C. difficile*, and antibiotic-resistant infections.
- Code appropriately by submitting comorbid diagnosis codes and competing diagnosis codes for bacterial infections.
- Provide your patients with educational materials, like the viral leave-behind pad we've provided, or those from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at [cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/materials-references](https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/materials-references).

*Source: [cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/stewardship-report/outpatient.html](https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/stewardship-report/outpatient.html)

Why Is This Important?

Almost one out of every six emergency room visits for bad drug reactions are from antibiotics.**

- Antibiotics can cause unwanted side effects like diarrhea and nausea, drug interactions, allergic rashes, fungal infections, or sun sensitivity.
- **Antibiotic resistance** happens when germs like bacteria and fungi develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. That means the bacteria are not killed and continue to grow. Antibiotic resistance is a serious threat to public health.
- If patients take antibiotics when they don't need them, or misuse their prescriptions, it can lead to antibiotic resistance.
- Infections caused by antibiotic-resistant germs are difficult, and sometimes impossible, to treat. In many cases, antibiotic-resistant infections require extended hospital stays, additional follow-up doctor visits, and costly and toxic alternatives.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND PRESCRIBING

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CDC

cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/for-hcp/continuing-education.html

Stanford Medicine

med.stanford.edu/cme/learning-opportunities/antimicrobialstewardship

National Quality Forum

qualityforum.org/Membership/Earn_Credits_with_the_Playbook.aspx

READ, WATCH, LISTEN

CDC Resources for Health Care Professionals

cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/for-hcp/index.html

The Harvard Gazette: A Cinematic Approach to Drug Resistance

news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2016/09/a-cinematic-approach-to-drug-resistance

The Pew Charitable Trusts: The Fight Against Antibiotic Resistance (Podcast)

pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/08/10/the-fight-against-antibiotic-resistance

**Source: cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adverse-drug-events-specific-medicines.html