

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

New for 2025

- No applicable changes for this measure



Yes!

Supplemental data accepted for **required exclusions only**

Definition

Percentage of episodes for members 3 months and older who were given a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) between July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year through June 30 of the measurement year and were **not** dispensed an antibiotic prescription on or 3 days after the diagnosis day (4 days total). A higher rate indicates appropriate treatment (not prescribed an antibiotic).

Plans(s) affected	Quality program(s) affected	Collection and reporting method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial • Exchange/Marketplace • Medicaid • Medicare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS Quality Rating System • NCQA Accreditation • NCQA Health Plan Ratings 	<p>Administrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim/encounter data • Pharmacy data

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. UnitedHealthcare will make the final determination regarding reimbursement upon receipt of a claim. Submitting a claim with a code included in this document is not a guarantee of payment. Payment of covered services is contingent upon coverage within an individual member's benefit plan, your eligibility for payment, any claim processing requirements, and your participation agreement with UnitedHealthcare.

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) (cont.)

Medications

The following antibiotic medications should **not** be prescribed for an upper respiratory infection:

Drug category	Medications
Aminoglycosides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amikacin • Gentamicin • Streptomycin • Tobramycin
Aminopenicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amoxicillin • Ampicillin
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amoxicillin-clavulanate • Ampicillin-sulbactam • Piperacillin-tazobactam
First generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cefadroxil • Cefazolin • Cephalexin
Fourth generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cefepime
Lincomycin derivatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clindamycin • Lincomycin
Macrolides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azithromycin • Clarithromycin • Erythromycin
Miscellaneous antibiotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aztreonam • Chloramphenicol • Dalfopristin-quinupristin • Daptomycin • Linezolid • Metronidazole • Vancomycin

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. UnitedHealthcare will make the final determination regarding reimbursement upon receipt of a claim. Submitting a claim with a code included in this document is not a guarantee of payment. Payment of covered services is contingent upon coverage within an individual member's benefit plan, your eligibility for payment, any claim processing requirements, and your participation agreement with UnitedHealthcare.

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) (cont.)

Drug category	Medications
Natural penicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penicillin G benzathine-procaine • Penicillin G potassium • Penicillin G procaine • Penicillin G sodium • Penicillin V potassium • Penicillin G benzathine
Penicillinase-resistant penicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dicloxacillin • Nafcillin • Oxacillin
Quinolones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciprofloxacin • Gemifloxacin • Levofloxacin • Moxifloxacin • Ofloxacin
Rifamycin derivatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rifampin
Second generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cefaclor • Cefotetan • Cefoxitin • Cefprozil • Cefuroxime
Sulfonamides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sulfadiazine • Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim
Tetracyclines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doxycycline • Minocycline • Tetracycline
Third generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cefdinir • Cefixime • Cefotaxime • Cefpodoxime • Ceftazidime • Ceftriaxone
Urinary anti-infectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fosfomycin • Nitrofurantoin • Nitrofurantoin macrocrystals-monohydrate • Trimethoprim

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. UnitedHealthcare will make the final determination regarding reimbursement upon receipt of a claim. Submitting a claim with a code included in this document is not a guarantee of payment. Payment of covered services is contingent upon coverage within an individual member's benefit plan, your eligibility for payment, any claim processing requirements, and your participation agreement with UnitedHealthcare.

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) (cont.)

Required exclusion(s)

Exclusion	Time frame
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members in hospice or using hospice services Members who died 	Any time during the measurement year



Important notes

Medical record detail including, but not limited to

- This measure addresses appropriate diagnosis and treatment for upper respiratory infections **without** prescribing an antibiotic
- An upper respiratory infection diagnosis can be from an outpatient, telephone, e-visit, virtual check-in, observation or emergency department visit between July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and June 30 of the measurement year
- Members who have a competing diagnosis of pharyngitis on or 3 days after the diagnosis of upper respiratory infection should be excluded

- History and physical
- Progress notes

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. UnitedHealthcare will make the final determination regarding reimbursement upon receipt of a claim. Submitting a claim with a code included in this document is not a guarantee of payment. Payment of covered services is contingent upon coverage within an individual member's benefit plan, your eligibility for payment, any claim processing requirements, and your participation agreement with UnitedHealthcare.

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) (cont.)

Tips and best practices to help close this care opportunity

- **Please check your Patient Care Opportunity Report (PCOR) or Practice Assist often to see members with open care opportunities.** If you have questions, your UnitedHealthcare representative can help.
- Details on the appropriate treatment of URIs are available at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
- Sharing member demographic data is critical to understanding the cultural, linguistic and social needs of those we serve and decreasing health inequities across the care continuum. This data can include, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, pronouns, sex assigned at birth and disability status.
- As part of the UnitedHealthcare clinical structured data exchange program, we encourage you to include this demographic data with any structured data file or CCD. Your information is confidential. UnitedHealthcare will keep personally identifiable information confidential and won't disclose any information without your written consent.
- Supplemental data may be used for required exclusions

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. UnitedHealthcare will make the final determination regarding reimbursement upon receipt of a claim. Submitting a claim with a code included in this document is not a guarantee of payment. Payment of covered services is contingent upon coverage within an individual member's benefit plan, your eligibility for payment, any claim processing requirements, and your participation agreement with UnitedHealthcare.