

HEDIS® Tips: Acute Bronchitis



Measure Description

Members three months of age and older **who were diagnosed with acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis and were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription within three days of the visit.**

Note: Prescribing antibiotics for acute bronchitis is not indicated unless there is a comorbid diagnosis or coexisting bacterial infection (examples below). Only about 10% of cases of acute bronchitis are due to a bacterial infection, so in most cases, antibiotics will not help.

Using Correct Billing Codes for Acute Bronchitis

Codes to Identify Acute Bronchitis

Description	ICD-10 Code(s)
Acute Bronchitis	J20.3–J20.9, J21.0, J21.1, J21.8, J21.9

Codes to Identify Comorbid Conditions

Description	ICD-10 Code(s)
Acute Bronchitis	J20.3, J20.4, J20.5, J20.6, J20.7, J20.8, J20.9, J21.0, J21.1, J21.8, J21.9
Emphysema	J43.0, J43.1, J43.2, J43.8, J43.9
COPD	J44.0, J44.1, J44.9

Codes to Identify Coexisting Diagnosis

Description	ICD-10 Code(s)
Pharyngitis	J02.0, J02.8, J02.9, J03.00, J03.01, J03.80, J03.81, J03.90, J03.91

Tips to Improve HEDIS Scores

Telehealth visits are allowed for this measure:

- ▶ Includes telephone visit, e-visit, or virtual check-in (observation and ED visits as well).
- ▶ Do not prescribe antibiotics when treating acute bronchitis **unless** there are comorbid conditions or competing diagnoses that require antibiotic therapy.

If the member or caregiver insists on an antibiotic:

- ▶ Arrange an early follow-up visit by telehealth or re-examination (tell them to follow-up in three or more days if symptoms worsen or don't improve).
- ▶ Write a prescription for symptom relief instead of an antibiotic.
- ▶ Review bacterial infection symptoms with the member/caregiver and inform them that antibiotics will not help with viral infections. Discuss the side effects of antibiotic use.

Refer to the illness as a chest cold or lower respiratory infection and educate the member or caregiver on at-home treatment:

- ▶ Over-the-counter (OTC) medicines appropriate for the patient (such as cough, cold, pain reliever and anti-inflammatory medicines).
- ▶ Getting plenty of rest and drinking extra fluids.

Submit all diagnosis codes, if present, on the claim/encounter for visit.

NOTE: The information listed here is not all-inclusive and should be used as a reference only. Please refer to current ICD-10/CPT®/HCPCS coding and documentation guidelines found at [cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov). HEDIS® measures can be found at [ncqa.org](https://www.ncqa.org).