

**Quality ID #65 (NQF 0069): Appropriate Treatment for Children with Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)**  
– National Quality Strategy Domain: Efficiency and Cost Reduction  
– Meaningful Measure Area: Appropriate Use of Healthcare

**2020 COLLECTION TYPE:**

**MIPS CLINICAL QUALITY MEASURES (CQMS)**

**MEASURE TYPE:**

Process – High Priority

**DESCRIPTION:**

Percentage of children 3 months - 18 years of age who were diagnosed with upper respiratory infection (URI) and were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription on or three days after the episode

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This measure is to be submitted once for **each occurrence** of upper respiratory infection during the performance period. Claims data will be analyzed to determine unique occurrences. This measure may be submitted by Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

**Measure Submission Type:**

Measure data may be submitted by individual MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, or third party intermediaries. The listed denominator criteria are used to identify the intended patient population. The numerator options included in this specification are used to submit the quality actions as allowed by the measure. The quality-data codes listed do not need to be submitted by MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, or third party intermediaries that utilize this modality for submissions; however, these codes may be submitted for those third party intermediaries that utilize Medicare Part B claims data. For more information regarding Application Programming Interface (API), please refer to the Quality Payment Program (QPP) website.

**DENOMINATOR:**

Children age 3 months to 18 years of age who had an outpatient or emergency department (ED) visit with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) during the measurement period

**Denominator Instructions:**

This is an episode of care measure that examines all eligible episodes for the patient during the measurement period. If the patient has more than one episode, include all episodes in the measure.

To determine eligibility, look for any of the listed antibiotic drugs below in the 30 days prior to the visit with the URI diagnosis. As long as there are no prescriptions for the listed antibiotics during this time period, the patient is eligible for denominator inclusion.

**DENOMINATOR NOTE:** *\*Signifies that this CPT Category I code is a non-covered service under the Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). These non-covered services should be counted in the denominator population for MIPS CQMs.*

**Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):**

Patients aged 3 months to 18 years on date of encounter

**AND**

**Diagnosis for URI (ICD-10-CM):** J00, J06.0, J06.9

**AND**

**Patient encounter during the performance period (CPT or HCPCS):** 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99218, 99219, 99220, 99281, 99282, 99283, 99284, 99285, 99381\*, 99382\*, 99383\*, 99384\*, 99391\*, 99392\*, 99393\*, 99394\*

**AND NOT**

**DENOMINATOR EXCLUSIONS:**

Patient prescribed or dispensed antibiotic for documented medical reason(s) within three days after the initial diagnosis of URI (e.g., intestinal infection, pertussis, bacterial infection, Lyme disease, otitis media, acute sinusitis, acute pharyngitis, acute tonsillitis, chronic sinusitis, infection of the pharynx/larynx/tonsils/adenoids, prostatitis, cellulitis, mastoiditis, or bone infections, acute lymphadenitis, impetigo, skin staph infections, pneumonia/gonococcal infections, venereal disease (syphilis, chlamydia, inflammatory diseases [female reproductive organs]), infections of the kidney, cystitis or UTI, and acne): G8709

**OR**

Children who are taking antibiotics in the 30 days prior to the date of the encounter during which the diagnosis was established: G9701

**OR**

Patients who use hospice services any time during the measurement period: G9700

**NUMERATOR:**

Children without a prescription for antibiotic medication on or 3 days after the outpatient or ED visit for an upper respiratory infection

**Numerator Instructions:**

For performance, the measure will be calculated as the number of patient's encounter(s) where antibiotics were neither prescribed nor dispensed on or within three days of the episode for URI over the total number of encounters in the denominator (patients aged 3 months to 18 years with an outpatient or ED visit for URI. A higher score indicates appropriate treatment of patients with URI (e.g., the proportion for whom antibiotics were not prescribed or dispensed following the episode).

**Table 1 - Antibiotic Medications**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Prescription</b>
Aminopenicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amoxicillin</li><li>• Ampicillin</li></ul>
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amoxicillin-clavulanate</li></ul>
First generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cefadroxi</li><li>• Cefazolin</li><li>• Cephalexin</li></ul>
Folate antagonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trimethoprim</li></ul>
Lincomycin derivatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clindamycin</li></ul>
Macrolides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Azithromycin</li><li>• Clarithromycin</li><li>• Erythromycin</li><li>• Erythromycin ethylsuccinate</li><li>• Erythromycin lactobionate</li><li>• Erythromycin stearate</li></ul>
Miscellaneous antibiotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Erythromycin-sulfisoxazole</li></ul>
Natural penicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Penicillin G potassium</li><li>• Penicillin G sodium</li><li>• Penicillin V potassium</li></ul>
Penicillinase-resistant penicillins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dicloxacillin</li></ul>
Quinolones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ciprofloxacin</li><li>• Levofloxacin</li><li>• Moxifloxacin</li><li>• Ofloxacin</li></ul>
Second generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cefaclor</li><li>• Cefprozil</li><li>• Cefuroxime</li></ul>

Description	Prescription
Sulfonamides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim</li> </ul>
Tetracyclines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doxycycline</li> <li>Minocycline</li> <li>Tetracycline</li> </ul>
Third generation cephalosporins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cefdinir</li> <li>Cefixime</li> <li>Cefpodoxime</li> <li>Ceftibuten</li> <li>Cefditoren</li> <li>Ceftriaxone</li> </ul>

**Numerator Options:**

***Performance Met:***

Patient not prescribed or dispensed antibiotic (**G8708**)

**OR**

***Performance Not Met:***

Patient prescribed or dispensed antibiotic (**G8710**)

**RATIONALE:**

Most upper respiratory infections (URI), also known as the common cold, are caused by viruses that require no antibiotic treatment. Too often, antibiotics are prescribed inappropriately, which can lead to antibiotic resistance (when antibiotics can no longer cure bacterial infections). In the United States, at least 2 million antibiotic-resistant illnesses and 23,000 deaths occur each year, at a cost to the U.S. economy of at least \$30 billion.

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

American Family Physician (Fashner, Ericson, and Werner, Khilberg 2012)

- Antibiotics should not be used for the treatment of cold symptoms in children or adults. (A)
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs reduce pain secondary to upper respiratory tract infection in adults. (A)
- Decongestants, antihistamine/decongestant combinations, and intranasal ipratropium (Atrovent) may improve cold symptoms in adults. (B)

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**2020 Clinical Quality Measure Flow for Quality ID #65 NQF #0069:  
Appropriate Treatment for Children with Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)**

*Disclaimer: Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.*



**SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:**

**Data Completeness=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=40 episodes)} + \text{Performance Not Met (c=30 episodes)}}{\text{Eligible Population / Denominator (d=80 episodes)}} = \frac{70 \text{ episodes}}{80 \text{ episodes}} = 87.50\%$$

**Performance Rate=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=40 episodes)}}{\text{Data Completeness Numerator (70 episodes)}} = \frac{40 \text{ episodes}}{70 \text{ episodes}} = 57.14\%$$

\* See the posted measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.  
NOTE: Submission Frequency: Episode

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**2020 Clinical Quality Measure Flow Narrative for Quality ID #65 NQF #0069:  
Appropriate Treatment for Children with Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)**

**Disclaimer:** Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.

1. Start with Denominator
2. Check Patient Age:
  - a. If Patients Aged 3 Months to 18 Years on Date of Encounter equals No, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Patients Aged 3 Months to 18 Years on Date of Encounter equals Yes, proceed to check Patient Diagnosis.
3. Check Patient Diagnosis:
  - a. If Diagnosis for URI as Listed in Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Diagnosis for URI as Listed in Denominator equals Yes, proceed to check Encounter Performed.
4. Check Encounter Performed:
  - a. If Encounter as Listed in Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Encounter as Listed in Denominator equals Yes, proceed to check Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic for Documented Medical Reason(s) Within 3 Days After the Initial Diagnosis of URI.
5. Check Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic for Documented Medical Reason(s) Within 3 Days After the Initial Diagnosis of URI:
  - a. If Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic for Documented Medical Reason(s) Within 3 Days After the Initial Diagnosis of URI equals Yes, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic for Documented Medical Reason(s) Within 3 Days After the Initial Diagnosis of URI equals No, proceed to check Children who are Taking Antibiotics in the 30 Days Prior to the Date of the Encounter during which the Diagnosis was Established.
6. Check Children who are Taking Antibiotics in the 30 Days Prior to the Date of the Encounter during which the Diagnosis was Established:
  - a. If Children who are Taking Antibiotics in the 30 Days Prior to the Date of the Encounter during which the Diagnosis was Established equals Yes, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Children who are Taking Antibiotics in the 30 Days Prior to the Date of the Encounter during which the Diagnosis was Established equals No, proceed to check Patients Who Use Hospice Services Any Time During the Measurement Period.
7. Check Patients Who Use Hospice Services Any Time During the Measurement Period:
  - a. If Patients Who Use Hospice Services Any Time During the Measurement Period equals Yes, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.

- b. If Patients Who Use Hospice Services Any Time During the Measurement Period equals No, include in Eligible Population.
8. Denominator Population:
- a. Denominator Population is all Eligible Episodes in the Denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 80 episodes in the Sample Calculation.
9. Start Numerator
10. Check Patient Not Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic:
- a. If Patient Not Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Performance Met.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Met letter is represented as Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 40 episodes in the Sample Calculation.
  - c. If Patient Not Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic equals No, proceed to check Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic
11. Check Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic:
- a. If Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic equals Yes, include in the Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented as Data Completeness in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 30 episodes in the Sample Calculation.
  - c. If Patient Prescribed or Dispensed Antibiotic equals No, proceed to check Data Completeness Not Met.
12. Check Data Completeness Not Met:
- a. If Data Completeness Not Met, the Quality Data Code or equivalent was not submitted. 10 episodes have been subtracted from the Data Completeness Numerator in the Sample Calculation.

<u>SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:</u>			
<b>Data Completeness=</b>			
<u>Performance Met (a=40 episodes) + Performance Not Met (c=30 episodes)</u>	=	<u>70 episodes</u>	= 87.50%
Eligible Population / Denominator (d=80 episodes)	=	80 episodes	
 <b>Performance Rate=</b>			
<u>Performance Met (a=40 episodes)</u>	=	<u>40 episodes</u>	= 57.14%
Data Completeness Numerator (70 episodes)	=	70 episodes	