

Provider Update

Reminder: We Cover Rapid Strep Tests

Reminder: Rapid strep tests billed with CPT code 87880 are covered. This test should be completed for any child prescribed an antibiotic for pharyngitis.

★ **What this means to you:** For your information only. No immediate action is necessary.

Background

As part of our annual Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) audit, we assess appropriate testing for children with pharyngitis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Committee for Quality Assurance guidelines constitute the basis for this HEDIS measure.

As part of our audit, we review members' medical records, claims and laboratory data. During our last audit, many of you said Amerigroup Community Care does not reimburse for rapid strep tests; therefore, you don't file claims for this service.

We want you to know Amerigroup does cover the rapid strep test when you file a claim using CPT code 87880. Pharyngitis can be validated through lab results; therefore, it serves as an indicator of appropriate antibiotic use. Attached is a summary sheet for this measure and the appropriate codes to use for diagnosis and payment.

We know many parents and guardians request or insist on antibiotics when they aren't necessary for treatment. We count on your excellent training and cooperation to comply with this standard for appropriate antibiotic use.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, received it in error or need help with another item, please call our Quality Management department at 1-877-453-4080 or our Provider Services team:

- Medicaid providers call 1-800-454-3730
- Medicare providers call 1-866-805-4589

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