HEDIS Hints

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

- What is NCQA's URI Measure?

- Examples of Best Practices

- Coding tip

- Questions

Jefferson Health Plans

What is NCQA's URI Measure?

- The URI Measure looks at the percentage of episodes for members 3 months of age and older with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) that **did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event**.
  - A higher rate for this measure shows the percentage of episodes that the patient was not prescribed an antibiotic – this indicates an appropriate treatment.

- The look back period for the URI Measure begins on July 1 of the year before the measurement year (MY) and ends on June 30 of the MY.
  - For example, the URI Measure for HEDIS MY 2023 look back period begins 07/01/2022 and ends 06/30/2023.

- Most upper respiratory infections are viral in nature so antibiotics would not be of value for treatment.

- This measure's intent is to improve antibiotic utilization in order to decrease antibiotic resistant infections.

Jefferson Health Plans

What is NCQA's URI Measure?

- The age stratifications for these measures are:
  - 3 months – 17 years
  - 18 years – 64 years
  - 65 years and older
  - Total of all ages

- This measure **is only an administrative measure** which utilizes pharmacy data.

- Jefferson Health Plans **may not perform** medical record review for the AAP measure.

Jefferson Health Plans

Examples of Best Practices for the URI Measure

- Do not dispense antibiotics for viral illnesses even if your patient requests them.
  - Refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website for more information of Antibiotic prescribing and usage: https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/index.html

- Educate patients, and caregivers on viral illnesses:
  - Difference between viral and bacterial infections.
  - Inappropriate use of antibiotics.
  - Explain other causes for sore throats such as colds or allergies.

- Offer ways to treat symptoms such as:
  - Increased fluids by mouth
  - Over the counter medicines
  - Cool mist vaporizer
  - Throat lozenges
  - Rest

- Explain ways to prevent infection:
  - Wash hands frequently.
  - Clean children's toys.
  - Wipe down frequently touched areas with disinfectant wipes.

Jefferson Health Plans

Coding tip

- If antibiotics are prescribed for another condition, be sure to include all comorbid diagnosis codes on the claim.

Questions?

Please contact ProviderEducation@jeffersonhealthplans.com

or

Teresa McKeever MS, BSN, RN Director, Quality Management tmckeever@jeffersonhealthplans.com

Jefferson Health Plans