Neighborhood Health Plan OF RHODE ISLAND™

910 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917

Appropriate Antibiotic Use

Neighborhood News – October 2026

Join us in observing U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week is from November 18-24. This week focuses on the critical need for prudent antibiotic use to combat resistance and ensure effective treatments for future generations.

In Measurement Year (MY) 2025, Neighborhood's Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS) Medicaid rate for **Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis** was 47.42%, well below the Quality Compass (QC) 90*th* percentile of 74.12%.

How You Can Help

1. **Prescribe Wisely:** Antibiotics should be reserved for cases where they are clearly indicated. Many respiratory conditions like acute bronchitis are primarily viral and do not benefit from antibiotic treatment.
2. **Testing and Documentation:** Use antibiotics for sore throats only after a positive Strep result, and ensure accurate documentation in the patient's medical records.
3. **Highlight Risks:** Discuss with patients the potential risks associated with antibiotic use, such as allergic reactions, the development of C. difficile infections, and the increase in antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

For more tools and educational materials on promoting appropriate antibiotic use, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's antibiotic stewardship page.

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