



Be Antibiotics Aware

Neighborhood News – October 2022

The U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week is November 18-24 this year and it's the perfect time to raise awareness of the importance of *appropriate* antibiotic use.

Neighborhood's Measurement Year (MY) 2021 Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS) rates related to appropriate antibiotic use remain well below targets. This means our members are being prescribed antibiotics inappropriately.

- Neighborhood's MY 2021 Medicaid rate for Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis was 52.54%, below the target of 70.39%.
- Neighborhood's MY 2021 Medicaid rate for Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis was 66.59%, below the current target of 85.93%.

How can you help?

1. **Protect your patients:** Only prescribe antibiotics when they are needed. Most Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis infections are viral and do not require antibiotics.
2. **Test and Document:** Only prescribe antibiotics for a sore throat when there is a positive Strep test and document diagnosis of Strep in the patients chart.
3. **Discuss side effects:** Talk to your patients and their families about possible harms from antibiotics, such as allergic reactions, *difficile*, and antibiotic-resistant infections.

For more information, including key messaging and resources that you can use to educate your patients about appropriate antibiotic use, please visit www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use.

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