

Appropriate Antibiotic Use

Neighborhood News – October 2023

This year's U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week takes place November 18-24. Let's seize the opportunity to spotlight the significance of judicious antibiotic use.

For the Measurement Year (MY) 2022, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS®) rates concerning appropriate antibiotic are still not meeting our targets. This indicates that our members frequently receive antibiotics when they shouldn't.

- For **Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis**, our MY2022 Medicaid rate was 53.81%.
- Our MY2022 Medicaid rate for **Appropriate Testing for Upper Respiratory Infection** fell to 92.51%, a reduction from 94.48% in MY2021.

How Can You Help?

1. **Prescribe Wisely:** Protect patients by only prescribing antibiotics when necessary. Remember, many cases of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis and upper respiratory infections are viral, making antibiotics ineffective.
2. **Testing and Documentation:** For sore throats, prescribe antibiotics exclusively when there's a confirmed positive Strep test and ensure this diagnosis is documented in the patient's chart.
3. **Highlight Risks:** Engage with your patients and their families, informing them about the potential dangers of antibiotics, including allergic reactions, C. difficile infections, and the emergence of antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

For resources to aid in patient education about the right use of antibiotics, please visit [cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use).

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