Provider News
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HEDIS measures: pharyngitis and chlamydia

Prevea360 appreciates your continued commitment to identify potential care gaps and improve the overall health outcomes for your patients. In this edition of Provider News, we are highlighting pharyngitis and chlamydia testing as two measures that may have some standardization opportunities within your clinic.

Appropriate Testing for Children With Pharyngitis (CWP)

Measure Description
The measure focuses on performing appropriate strep testing on all children 2–18 years of age, who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, ordered an antibiotic and received a group A streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.

Measure Qualifiers
The measure uses administrative claims information to identify patients who were diagnosed with acute pharyngitis, sore throat or tonsillitis and had appropriate testing if prescribed an antibiotic.

Ideas for Improving Standardization
- Test frequency
  - One time during the 7-day period from 3 days prior to 3 days after antibiotic dispensing
- Process review
  - If an antibiotic has been ordered for a sore throat (acute pharyngitis), verify that a strep test has been performed

Chlamydia Screening in Women (CHL)

Measure Description
The measure focuses on performing appropriate chlamydia testing on women 16–24 years of age who were identified as sexually active and who had at least one test for chlamydia during the measurement period. The definition of sexually active includes women on birth control, or who have had a pregnancy test.

Measure Qualifiers
The measure uses pharmacy data and claim/encounter data; both methods are used to identify the eligible population. The patient only needs to be identified in one method to be counted in the measure. For example, the patient may be prescribed an oral contraceptive; this would include the patient in the measure even if the oral contraceptive were prescribed for reasons other than sexual activity.
Ideas for Improving Standardization

- Test frequency
  - Annually

- Process review
  - Change patient communication from the test being about sexual behavior to being about standard protocol - “We screen all females on birth control or who have had a pregnancy test”
  - Train rooming staff to review health maintenance forms prior to patient visit and order labs/tests that are past due
  - Don’t override health maintenance reminders for patients that decline; they can be offered the test at subsequent visits
  - Send patients to the lab for screening via urinalysis prior to rooming them for a scheduled office visit, unless they are due for a pap