

HEDIS® QUICK TIPS

For Primary Care Providers, Family Practitioners, and Internists

Dear Provider,

The following is a tip sheet applicable to your Absolute Total Care patients.

What is the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)?

According to the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), HEDIS is a tool used by more than 90 percent of America's health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service. Because so many health plans collect HEDIS data and because the measures are so specifically defined, HEDIS makes it possible to compare the performance of health plans on an "apples-to-apples" basis. Absolute Total Care uses these performance measure rates to drive improvements in our quality of care and service.

HEDIS data is used by consumers to make comparisons of health plan performance. On an annual basis, Consumer Reports and U.S. News & World Report publish health plan rankings that include the performance of Absolute Total Care.

The following HEDIS specifications apply to Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis (CWP) and Appropriate Treatment for children with Upper Respiratory Infection (URI):

- **CWP:** The percentage of children ages 3-18 years who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, dispensed an antibiotic and received a group "A" streptococcus (strep) test for the episode.
- **URI:** The percentage of children ages 3 months-18 years who were given a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) and were not dispensed an antibiotic prescription.

What is being measured?

- Members with a diagnosis code of pharyngitis, tonsillitis or streptococcal sore throat **SHOULD** receive a strep test if antibiotics are prescribed.
- Members with a diagnosis of a common cold or URI should **NOT** be given an antibiotic.

Please note that a higher rate is better.

If you have any questions, please contact Provider Services at 1-866-433-6041 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

As always, we thank you for the care that you provide to our members.

Sincerely,

Absolute Total Care

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)