

Upper Respiratory Infection

Episode Definition

Episode Subtypes

There are three upper respiratory infection subtypes: 1.) Nonspecific, 2.) Pharyngitis, and 3.) Sinusitis.

Episode Trigger

An upper respiratory infection episode is triggered by an office visit, clinic visit or emergency department visit with a primary diagnosis related to the presentation of an upper respiratory infection.

Episode Duration

The episode duration is the timeframe from the date of the triggering claim through the following 20 days.

Episode Services

The episode will include the following services rendered within the duration of the episode:

- All services related to the triggering event and treatment of the upper respiratory infection including outpatient facility services, professional services, and related medications.

Principal Accountable Provider

The Principal Accountable Provider (PAP) is the physician to first diagnose the patient with an upper respiratory infection.

Episode Exclusions

In addition to the *Global Exclusions* for all episodes, Episodes meeting any of the following criteria will be excluded:

- Patients who are less than age 1.
- Patients with inpatient stays within the episode duration.
- Patients with surgical procedures related to URI (e.g., tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy) within the episode duration.
- Patients with 2 or more claims for the same comorbidity in the 365 days prior to the episode end date.
- Patients with the following comorbidity diagnoses during the episode: croup, epiglottitis, URI with obstruction, pneumonia, influenza, and otitis media.

Episode Adjustments

For the purposes of determining a PAP's performance, the total cost attributable to the PAP for an episode is adjusted based on:

- The age of the patient.

Quality and Utilization Measures

The following measures are tracked for informational reporting purposes:

- Percent of episodes with at least 1 antibiotic dispensed.
- Percent of episodes with multiple antibiotics dispensed.
- Percent of episodes with a strep test.
- Percent of episodes that had a strep test when at least 1 antibiotic dispensed. (Pharyngitis Only)
- Percent of episodes starting in the emergency department.
- Average number of visits per episode.