

Acute Pharyngitis in children

NQF measure #0002; Michigan Quality Improvement Consortium Guideline, Jan., 2013

Assess for signs and symptoms of Streptococcus (strep) pharyngitis

Strep culture or rapid strep antigen testing

Validate a negative rapid strep test by strep culture

Negative culture:

Counsel patients regarding contagion, hand washing, hygiene

Symptomatic treatment: rest, non-acidic fluids, soft foods, salt water gargles, lozenges and analgesics (no aspirin <21 years of age)

Decision to treat with antibiotics should be based on test results

If clinical judgment is to treat prior to culture results, treatment should be discontinued if culture negative

Positive culture:

Treatment: Penicillin V; Amoxicillin; Benzathine penicillin G; or Cephalexin or azithromycin (appropriate streptococcal dosage) if penicillin allergic

Clinical Failure:

If failure to respond clinically 24-48 hours of treatment or worsening symptoms

Consider: poor compliance, viral etiology in Strep carrier; antibiotic resistance; infectious mono; peritonsillar or retropharyngeal abscess (requires prompt ENT evaluation)

10/7/2014