

NATIONAL PNEUMONIA



Medicare Quality Improvement Project

Identified Pathogen 4/1/2008 Discharges

This data element addresses documentation that the patient had a positive diagnostic test for a pathogen upon arrival or within 24 hours after arrival to the hospital. For the purposes of this measure, a positive diagnostic test for a pathogen is defined as any of the following:

- Known positive blood, urine, sputum, wound, etc. culture with any pathogen
- Positive urinary antigen test for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or *Legionella pneumophila*
- Positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test for *Legionella pneumophila*

Only test results that contain a **pathogen** are acceptable. Generally, preliminary tests do not contain pathogens. However, if a preliminary test does contain a pathogen, it should be answered “Yes,” i.e., “so far gram negative rods are growing, appears to be *Pseudomonadaceae aeruginosa*.” The preliminary results with the pathogen identified may not necessarily contain the word “pneumonia,” i.e., a final result listing “*E. coli*.” Since any named pathogen could cause the physician to alter the antimicrobial regimen for the treatment of pneumonia and the pathogen is identified, the case should be removed from the antibiotic selection measure (PN-6) because pathogen-directed therapy would be appropriate.

Answer “No” if the following documentation is found in the medical record:

- “colonization”
- “history of” as in “History of MRSA”

Documentation of a pathogen result **MUST BE AVAILABLE** within 24 hours of arrival to the hospital. If the abstractor cannot ascertain that the results were available within 24 hours of arrival, the results cannot be used.

Hospital Quality Measures Special Study
Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality

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