

# Respiratory Infection Episode

## Executive Summary

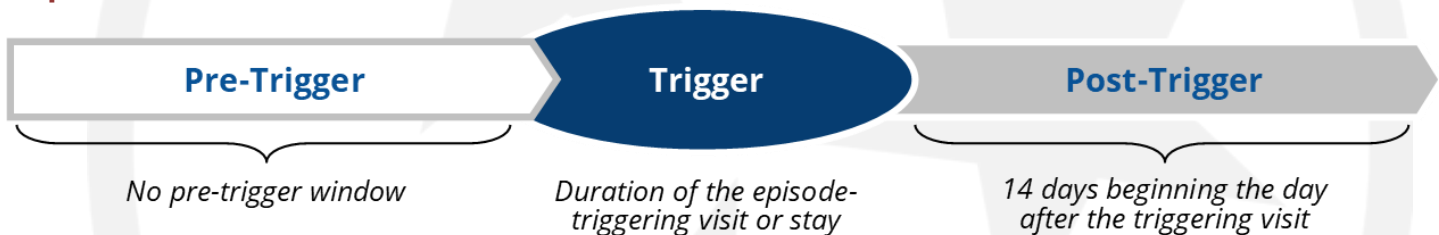
### Episode Design

- **Trigger:** RI diagnosis
- **Quarterback type:** professional (provider who makes the diagnosis)
- **Care included:** all RI-related care including imaging and testing, evaluation and management, and medications

### Sources of Value

- Patient diagnosis in the most cost-effective place of service
- Effective use of imaging and tests (e.g., X-rays, CT scans, blood work, Strep A test) only when suspicion of a more serious event (e.g., epiglottitis, secondary bacterial infection, pneumonia)
- Use of antibiotics only when clinically indicated (e.g., confirmed streptococcal pharyngitis)
- Minimizing use of generally less or ineffective treatments (e.g., antitussives, expectorants)
- Efficient follow up services and care
- Reduction of complications

### Episode Duration



### Quality Metrics

#### **Tied to Gain-Sharing**

- Emergency department visit within the post-trigger window (lower rate is better)

#### **Informational Only**

- Admission within the post-trigger window
- Antibiotic injection for Strep A sore throat
- Steroid injection for Strep A sore throat
- Antibiotic utilizations

### Making Fair Comparisons

#### **Exclusions**

- Business exclusions: inconsistent enrollment, third-party liability, dual eligibility, FQHC/RHC, no PAP ID, incomplete episodes, overlapping episodes
- Clinical exclusions: different care pathway (e.g., COVID-19, acute epiglottitis, admission during the trigger window or one day after, cancer under active management, coma, cystic fibrosis, end stage renal disease, multiple sclerosis, organ transplant, Parkinson's, supraglottitis, DCS custody)
- Patient exclusions: age (less than 90 days old or greater than 64 years old), death, left against medical advice
- High-cost outlier: episodes with risk-adjusted spend greater than three standard deviations above the average risk-adjusted episode spend for valid episodes are excluded.

**Risk adjustment** is used to ensure appropriate comparisons between patients.

**To learn more about the episode's design**, please reference the Detailed Business Requirements (DBR) and Configuration File on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/health-care-innovation/episodes-of-care/searchable-episodes-table.html>.