

**▲Measure #93: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use**

**DESCRIPTION:**

Percentage of patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of AOE who were not prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This measure is to be reported once for each occurrence of AOE during the reporting period. Each unique occurrence is defined as a 30-day period from onset of AOE. Claims data will be analyzed to determine unique occurrences. If multiple claims are submitted within that 30-day period, only one instance of reporting will be counted. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

**This measure is reported using CPT Category II codes:**

ICD-9 diagnosis codes, CPT E/M service codes, and patient demographics (age, gender, etc.) are used to identify patients who are included in the measure's denominator. CPT Category II codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure, submit the appropriate ICD-9 diagnosis codes, CPT E/M service codes, and the appropriate CPT Category II code OR the CPT Category II code with the modifier. The modifier allowed for this measure is: 1P- medical reasons.

**NUMERATOR:**

Patients who were not prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy

**Numerator Instructions:** For performance, the measure will be calculated as the number of patients for whom systemic antimicrobial therapy was not prescribed over the number of patients in the denominator (patients aged 2 years and older with acute otitis externa). A higher score indicates appropriate treatment of patients with AOE (e.g., the proportion for whom systemic antimicrobials were not prescribed).

**Numerator Coding:**

**Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy not Prescribed**

CPT II 4132F: Systemic antimicrobial therapy not prescribed

OR

**Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy Prescribed for Medical Reasons**

Append a modifier (1P) to CPT Category II code 4131F to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.

- 1P: Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing systemic antimicrobial therapy

OR

**Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy Prescribed**

CPT II 4131F: Systemic antimicrobial therapy prescribed

**DENOMINATOR:**

All patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of AOE

**Denominator Coding:**

An ICD-9 diagnosis code for AOE and a CPT E/M service code are required to identify patients for denominator inclusion.

**ICD-9 diagnosis codes:** 380.10, 380.11, 380.12, 380.13, 380.22

**AND**

**CPT E/M service codes:** 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99241, 99242, 99243, 99244, 99245

**RATIONALE:**

Despite their limited utility, many patients with AOE receive systemic antimicrobial therapy, often in addition to topical therapy. "There are no data on the efficacy of systemic therapy with the use of appropriate antibacterials and stratified by severity of the infection. Moreover, orally administered antibiotics have significant adverse effects that include rashes, vomiting, diarrhea, allergic reactions, altered nasopharyngeal flora, and development of bacterial resistance." The use of systemic antimicrobial therapy to treat AOE should be limited only to those clinical situations in which it is indicated.

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

Systemic antimicrobial therapy should not be used unless there is extension outside the ear canal or the presence of specific host factors that would indicate a need for systemic therapy. (Recommendation based on randomized controlled trials with minor limitations and a preponderance of benefit over harm. [Aggregate evidence quality – Grade B]) (AAO-HNSF)