

**▲Measure #96: Otitis Media with Effusion (OME): Antihistamines or Decongestants – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use**

**DESCRIPTION:**

Percentage of patients aged 2 months through 12 years with a diagnosis of OME who were not prescribed/recommended either antihistamines or decongestants

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This measure is to be reported once for each occurrence of OME in children seen during the reporting period. Each unique occurrence is defined as a 90-day period from onset of OME. Claims data will be analyzed to determine unique occurrences. If multiple claims are submitted within that 90-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, 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/recommended either antihistamines or decongestants

**Numerator Instructions:** For performance, the measure will be calculated as the number of patients for whom antihistamines or decongestants were neither prescribed nor recommended over the number of patients in the denominator (patients aged 2 months through 12 years with a diagnosis of OME). A higher score indicates appropriate treatment of patients with OME (e.g., the proportion for whom antihistamines or decongestants were neither prescribed nor recommended).

**Numerator Coding:**

**Antihistamines or Decongestants not Prescribed or Recommended**

CPT II 4134F: Antihistamines or decongestants neither prescribed nor recommended

OR

**Antihistamines or Decongestants Prescribed or Recommended for Medical Reasons**

Append a modifier (1P) to CPT Category II code 4133F to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.

- **1P:** Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing or recommending antihistamines or decongestants

OR

## **Antihistamines or Decongestants Prescribed or Recommended**

CPT II 4133F: Antihistamines or decongestants prescribed or recommended

### **DENOMINATOR:**

All patients aged 2 months through 12 years with a diagnosis of OME

#### **Denominator Coding:**

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

**ICD-9 diagnosis codes:** 381.10, 381.19, 381.20, 381.29, 381.3, 381.4

#### **AND**

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

### **RATIONALE:**

OME usually resolves spontaneously with indications for therapy only if the condition is persistent and clinically significant benefits can be achieved. No data exists to support antihistamines and decongestants in treating OME. As a result, physicians should not prescribe or recommend the over-the-counter use of these medications.

### **CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

Antihistamines and decongestants are ineffective for OME and are not recommended for treatment. (Recommendation based on systematic review of randomized, controlled trials and preponderance of harm over benefit. [Aggregate evidence quality – Grade A]) (AAFP/AAO-HNSF/AAP)