

### Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy — Avoidance of Inappropriate Use

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*This measure is to be reported for **each occurrence**<sup>1</sup> of AOE during the reporting period for all patients aged 2 years and older.*

#### Measure description

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

#### What will you need to report for each occurrence of AOE for this measure?

If you select this measure for reporting, you will report:

- Whether or not you prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy<sup>2</sup>

#### What if this process or outcome of care is not appropriate for your patient?

There may be times when it is appropriate to prescribe systemic antimicrobial therapy, due to:

- Medical reasons (eg, coexisting diabetes, immune deficiency)

In these cases, you will need to indicate that the medical reason applies, and specify the reason on the worksheet and in the medical chart. The office/billing staff will then report a code with a modifier that represents these valid reasons (also called exclusions).

<sup>1</sup>Each unique occurrence is defined as a 30-day period from onset of AOE.

<sup>2</sup>This is an overuse measure. 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 (eg, the proportion for whom systemic antimicrobials were not prescribed).