

▲Measure #91: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy

DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of AOE who were prescribed topical preparations

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 modifiers allowed for this measure are: 1P- medical reasons, 2P- patient reasons, 8P- reasons not otherwise specified.

NUMERATOR:

Patients who were prescribed topical preparations

Numerator Coding:

Topical Preparations (including OTC) for Acute Otitis Externa (AOE) Prescribed
CPT II 4130F: Topical preparations (including OTC) prescribed for acute otitis externa

OR

Topical Preparations (including OTC) for Acute Otitis Externa (AOE) not Prescribed for Medical Reasons or Patient Reasons

Append a modifier (**1P** or **2P**) to CPT Category II code **4130F** to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.

- **1P:** Documentation of medical reason(s) for not prescribing topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa
- **2P:** Documentation of patient reason(s) for not prescribing topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa

OR

Topical Preparations (including OTC) for Acute Otitis Externa (AOE) not Prescribed, Reason not Specified

Append a reporting modifier (**8P**) to CPT Category II code **4130F** to report circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not otherwise specified.

- **8P**: Topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa (AOE) not prescribed, reason not otherwise specified

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:

Topical preparations should be used to treat AOE as they are active against the most common bacterial pathogens in AOE, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Topical preparations have demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of AOE with resolution in about 65-90% of patients.

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

Clinicians should use topical preparations for initial therapy of diffuse, uncomplicated AOE. (Recommendation based on randomized controlled trials with minor limitations and a preponderance of benefit over harm. [Aggregate evidence quality – Grade B]) (AAO-HNSF)

