

**Quality ID #91 (NQF 0653): Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy – National Quality Strategy**  
**Domain: Effective Clinical Care**

**2018 OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEASURES:**

**CLAIMS ONLY**

**MEASURE TYPE:**

Process

**DESCRIPTION:**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This measure may be submitted based on the actions of the submitting eligible clinician who performs the quality action, described in the measure, based on services provided within measure-specific denominator coding. This measure is to be submitted once for **each occurrence** of AOE during the performance period. For the purpose of submitting this measure, only unique occurrences with an onset of AOE diagnosing within the current performance period will be submitted. A unique occurrence of AOE is defined as the period of time that begins with the onset of AOE diagnosing and ends 30 days after the onset of diagnosing. Claims data will be analyzed to determine unique occurrences. If multiple claims are submitted within that 30-day period, only one instance of submission will be counted.

Eligible clinicians who submit this measure may also find Quality ID #93: Acute Otitis Externa: Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use to be clinically relevant. The measure developer intended for Quality ID #91: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy and Quality ID #93: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy- Avoidance of Inappropriate Use to be paired measures, as they can both be implemented to measure care provided to patients diagnosed with diffuse, uncomplicated AOE.

**Measure Submission:**

The listed denominator criteria is used to identify the intended patient population. The numerator quality-data codes included in this specification are used to submit the quality actions allowed by the measure. All measure-specific coding should be submitted on the claim(s) representing the eligible encounter.

**DENOMINATOR:**

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

***DENOMINATOR NOTE:*** A new diagnosis code indicates a new occurrence of AOE. If a patient presents with right ear AOE then returns with new onset of left ear AOE symptoms, then the left ear AOE would be considered a new unique occurrence, separate from the right ear AOE.

**Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):**

Patients aged  $\geq 2$  years on date of encounter **AND**

**Diagnosis for AOE (ICD-10-CM):** H60.311, H60.312, H60.313, H60.319, H60.321, H60.322, H60.323, H60.329, H60.331, H60.332, H60.333, H60.339, H60.391, H60.392, H60.393, H60.399, H60.501, H60.502, H60.503, H60.509, H60.511, H60.512, H60.513, H60.519, H60.521, H60.522, H60.523, H60.529, H60.531, H60.532, H60.533, H60.539, H60.541, H60.542, H60.543, H60.549, H60.551, H60.552, H60.553, H60.559, H60.591, H60.592, H60.593, H60.599, H60.8X3, H62.40, H62.41, H62.42, H62.43

**AND**

**Patient encounter during the performance period (CPT):** 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99281, 99282, 99283, 99284, 99285, 99304, 99305, 99306, 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310, 99324, 99325, 99326, 99327, 99328, 99334, 99335, 99336, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345,

99347, 99348, 99349, 99350

**WITHOUT**

Telehealth Modifier: GQ, GT, 95, POS 02

**NUMERATOR:**

Patients who were prescribed topical preparations

***NUMERATOR NOTE:*** Denominator Exception(s) are determined on the date of the denominator eligible encounter/diagnosis.

**Definition:**

**Prescribed** – May include prescription given to the patient for topical preparations at one or more visits during the episode of AOE OR patient already receiving topical preparations as documented in the current medication list.

**Numerator Quality-Data Coding Options:**

**Topical Preparations Prescribed for Acute Otitis Externa**

**Performance Met: CPT II 4130F:** Topical preparations (including OTC) prescribed for acute otitis externa

**OR**

**Topical Preparations Not Prescribed for Acute Otitis Externa for a Medical Reason**

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

**Denominator Exception: 4130F with 1P:** Documentation of medical reason(s) for not prescribing topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa

**OR**

**Topical Preparations Not Prescribed for Acute Otitis Externa for a Patient Reason**

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

**Denominator Exception: 4130F with 2P:** Documentation of patient reason(s) for not prescribing topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa

**OR**

**Topical Preparations Not Prescribed for Acute Otitis Externa, Reason not Otherwise Specified**

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

**Performance Not Met: 4130F with 8P:** Topical preparations (including OTC) for acute otitis externa (AOE) not prescribed, reason not otherwise specified

**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 are recommended as initial therapy for diffuse, uncomplicated AOE because of safety, efficacy over placebo in randomized controlled trials, and excellent clinical and bacteriologic outcomes in comparative studies. Topical preparations have demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of AOE with resolution in about 65-90% of patients.

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

Clinicians should prescribe topical preparations for initial therapy of diffuse, uncomplicated AOE.

Recommendation based on randomized controlled trials with some heterogeneity and a preponderance of benefit over harm. [Aggregate evidence quality – Grade B] (AAO-HNSF, 2014)

The purpose of this statement is to emphasize the importance of topical therapy, without systemic antibiotics, for initial management of uncomplicated AOE.

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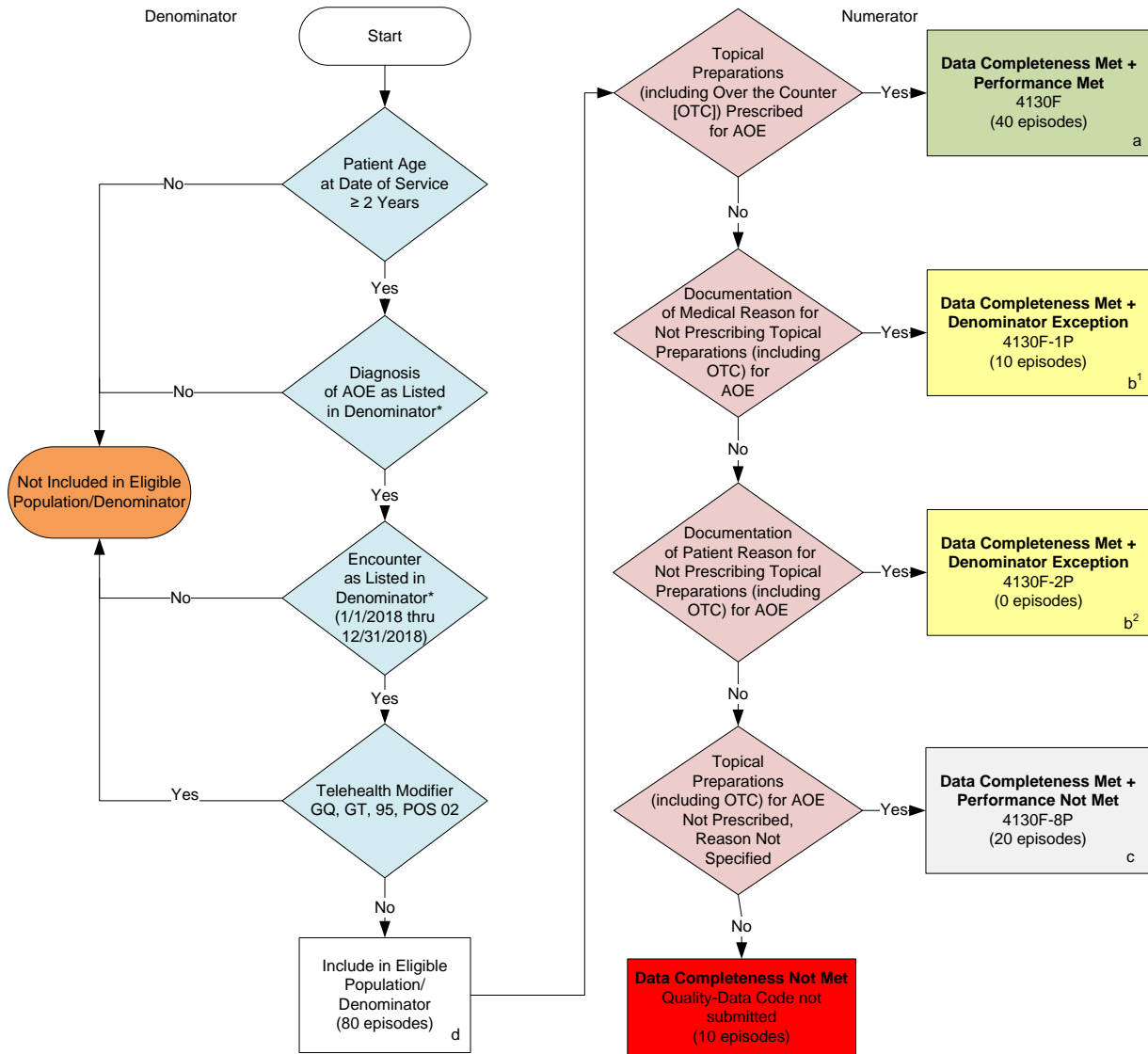
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**2018 Claims Flow for Quality ID #91 NQF #0653:  
Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy**



**SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:**

**Data Completeness=**

Performance Met (a=40 episodes) + Denominator Exception (b¹+b²=10 episodes) + Performance Not Met (c=20 episodes) = 70 episodes = 87.50%  
Eligible Population / Denominator (d=80 episodes) = 80 episodes

**Performance Rate=**

Performance Met (a=40 episodes) = 40 episodes = 66.67%  
Data Completeness Numerator (70 episodes) – Denominator Exception (b¹+b²=10 episodes) = 60 episodes

\*See the posted Measure Specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.

NOTE: Submission Frequency: Episode

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The measure diagrams were developed by CMS as a supplemental resource to be used in conjunction with the measure specifications. They should not be used alone or as a substitution for the measure specification.

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**2018 Claims Individual Measure Flow For Quality ID  
#91 NQF #0653: Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Topical Therapy**

Please refer to the specific section of the specification to identify the denominator and numerator information for use in submitting this Individual Specification. This flow is for claims data submission.

1. Start with Denominator
2. Check Patient Age:
  - a. If the Age is greater than or equal to 2 years of age at Date of Service and equals No during the measurement period, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If the Age is greater than or equal to 2 years of age at Date of Service and equals Yes during the measurement period, proceed to check Patient Diagnosis.
3. Check Patient Diagnosis:
  - a. If Diagnosis for AOE as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Diagnosis for AOE as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, proceed to Check Encounter Performed.
4. Check Encounter Performed:
  - a. If Encounter as Listed in Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Encounter as Listed in Denominator equals Yes, proceed to check Telehealth Modifier.
5. Check Telehealth Modifier:
  - a. If Telehealth Modifier equals Yes, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Telehealth Modifier equals No, include in the Eligible population.
6. Denominator Population:
  - a. Denominator population is all Eligible Patients in the denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 80 episodes in the sample calculation.
7. Start Numerator
8. Check Topical Preparations (including Over the Counter) Prescribed for AOE:
  - a. If Topical Preparations (including Over the Counter) Prescribed for AOE equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Performance Met.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Met letter is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 40 episodes in Sample Calculation.

- c. If Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) Prescribed for AOE equals No, proceed to Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE.
- 9. Check Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE:
  - a. If Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations for AOE equals Yes, include in the Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b<sup>1</sup> equals 10 episodes in the Sample Calculation.
  - c. If Documentation of Medical Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE equals No, proceed to Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE.
- 10. Check Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE:
  - a. If Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE equals Yes, include in the Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b<sup>2</sup> equals 0 episodes in the Sample Calculation.
  - c. If Documentation of Patient Reason for Not Prescribing Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE equals No, proceed to Topical Preparations for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified.
- 11. Check Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified:
  - a. If Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified equals Yes, include in the Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met is represented in the Data Completeness in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 20 episodes in the Sample Calculation.
  - c. If Topical Preparations (Including Over the Counter) for AOE Not Prescribed, Reason Not Specified equals No, proceed to Data Completeness Not Met.
- 12. Check Data Completeness Not Met:
  - a. If Data Completeness Not Met, the Quality Data Code was not submitted. 10 episodes have been subtracted from the data completeness numerator in sample calculation.

**SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:**

**Data Completeness=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=40 episodes)} + \text{Denominator Exception (b}^1\text{+b}^2\text{=10 episodes)} + \text{Performance Not Met (c=20 episodes)}}{\text{Eligible Population / Denominator (d=80 episodes)}} = \frac{70 \text{ episodes}}{80 \text{ episodes}} = 87.50\%$$

**Performance Rate=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=40 episodes)}}{\text{Data Completeness Numerator (70 episodes) – Denominator Exception (b}^1\text{+b}^2\text{=10 episodes)}} = \frac{40 \text{ episodes}}{60 \text{ episodes}} = 66.67\%$$