

Quality ID #93 (NQF 0654): Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use

– National Quality Strategy Domain: Efficiency and Cost Reduction

– Meaningful Measure Area: Appropriate Use of Healthcare

**2021 COLLECTION TYPE:
MEDICARE PART B CLAIMS**

MEASURE TYPE:
Process – High Priority

DESCRIPTION:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure may be submitted based on the actions of the submitting Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 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.

Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians who submit this measure may also find Quality ID #91: Acute Otitis Externa: Topical Therapy to be clinically relevant. The measure developer intended for Quality ID #91: Acute Otitis Externa: Topical Therapy and Quality ID #93: Acute Otitis Externa: 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.

NOTE: Patient encounters for this measure conducted via telehealth (e.g., encounters coded with GQ, GT, 95, or POS 02 modifiers) are allowable.

Measure Submission Type:

Measure data may be submitted by individual MIPS eligible clinicians using Medicare Part B claims. The listed denominator criteria are 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 on the claim form(s). All measure-specific coding should be submitted on the claim(s) representing the denominator eligible encounter and selected numerator option.

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 ≥ 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, H62.40, H62.41, H62.42, H62.43

AND

Patient encounter during the performance period (CPT): 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

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 NOTE: *Denominator Exception is determined on the date of the denominator eligible episode.*

Numerator Quality-Data Coding Options:

Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy Not Prescribed

Performance Met: 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 submit documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator

Denominator Exception: 4131F with 1P: Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing systemic antimicrobial therapy

OR

Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy Prescribed

Performance Not Met: CPT II 4131F: Systemic antimicrobial therapy prescribed

RATIONALE:

Despite their limited utility, about 20-40 percent of patients with AOE receive oral antibiotics, often in addition to topical therapy. "There are no data on the efficacy of systemic therapy using 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."¹ The use of systemic antimicrobial therapy to treat AOE should be limited only to those clinical situations in which it is indicated.

¹Rosenfeld RM, Schwartz SR, Cannon CR, Roland PS, Simon GR, Kumar KA, et al. Clinical practice guideline: acute otitis externa. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2014;150(1 Suppl):S1–S24. [[PubMed](#)]

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

Clinicians should not prescribe systemic antimicrobials as initial therapy for diffuse, uncomplicated AOE unless there is extension outside the ear canal or the presence of specific host factors that would indicate a need for systemic therapy.

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

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The PCPI's and AMA's significant past efforts and contributions to the development and updating of the Measures are acknowledged.

AAO-HNS Foundation is solely responsible for the review and enhancement ("Maintenance") of the Measure as of August 14, 2014.

AAO-HNS Foundation encourages use of the Measure by other health care professionals, where appropriate.

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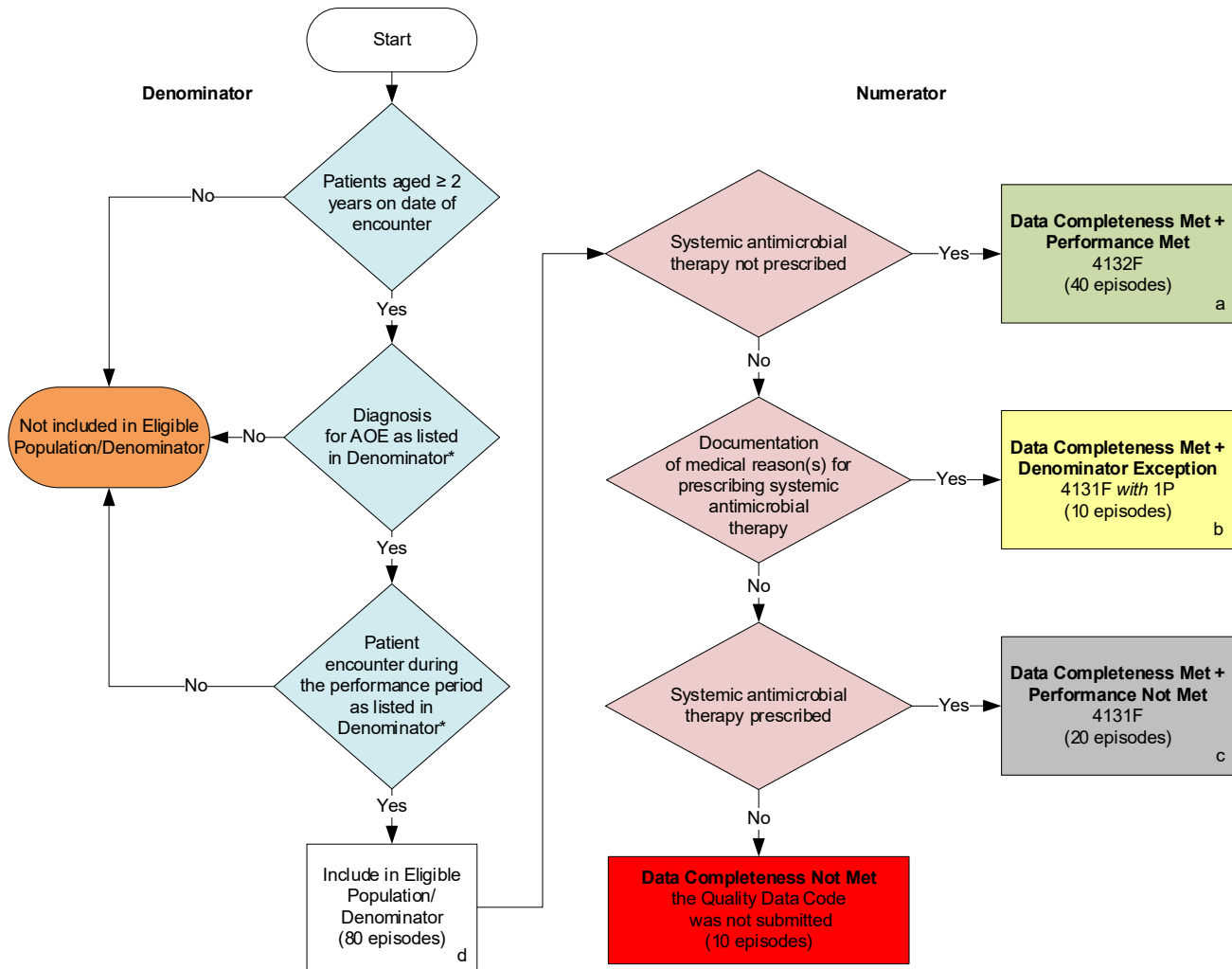
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**2021 Medicare Part B Claims Flow for Quality ID #93 (NQF 0654):
Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use**

Disclaimer: Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.



SAMPLE CALCULATIONS

Data Completeness=

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

Performance Rate=

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

*See the posted measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.

NOTE: Submission Frequency: Episode

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**2021 Medicare Part B Claims Flow Narrative for Quality ID #93 (NQF 0654):
Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use**

Disclaimer: Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.

1. Start with Denominator
2. Check *Patients aged greater than or equal to 2 years on date of encounter*.
 - a. If *Patients aged greater than or equal to 2 years on date of encounter* equals No, do not include in Eligible Population/Denominator. Stop processing.
 - b. If *Patients aged greater than or equal to 2 years on date of encounter* equals Yes, proceed to check *Diagnosis for AOE as listed in Denominator**.
3. Check *Diagnosis for AOE as listed in Denominator**.
 - a. If *Diagnosis for AOE as listed in Denominator** equals No, do not include in Eligible Population/Denominator. Stop processing.
 - b. If *Diagnosis for AOE as listed in Denominator** equals Yes, proceed to check *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator**.
4. Check *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator**.
 - a. If *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals No, do not include in Eligible Population/Denominator. Stop processing.
 - b. If *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals Yes, include in Eligible Population/Denominator.
5. Denominator Population
 - a. Denominator Population is all Eligible Episodes 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.
6. Start Numerator
7. Check *Systemic antimicrobial therapy not prescribed*:
 - a. If *Systemic antimicrobial therapy not prescribed* equals Yes, include in *Data Completeness Met and Performance Met*.
 - *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 the Sample Calculation.
 - b. If *Systemic antimicrobial therapy not prescribed* equals No, proceed to check *Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing systemic antimicrobial therapy*.
8. Check *Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing systemic antimicrobial therapy*:
 - a. If *Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing systemic antimicrobial therapy* equals Yes, include in *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception*.

- *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception* letter is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b equals 10 episodes in the Sample Calculation.
- b. If *Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing systemic antimicrobial therapy* equals No, proceed to check *Systemic antimicrobial therapy prescribed*.
9. Check *Systemic antimicrobial therapy prescribed*:
- a. If *Systemic antimicrobial therapy prescribed* equals Yes, include in the *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met*.
- *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met* letter 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.
- b. If *Systemic antimicrobial therapy prescribed* equals No, proceed to check *Data Completeness Not Met*.
10. 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 the Sample Calculation.

Sample Calculations

Data Completeness equals Performance Met (a equals 40 episodes) plus Denominator Exception (b equals 10 episodes) plus Performance Not Met (c equals 20 episodes) divided by Eligible Population/Denominator (d equals 80 episodes). All equals 70 episodes divided by 80 episodes. All equals 87.50 percent.

Performance Rate equals Performance Met (a equals 40 episodes) divided by Data Completeness Numerator (70 episodes) minus Denominator Exception (b equals 10 episodes). All equals 40 episodes divided by 60 episodes. All equals 66.67 percent.

*See the posted measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.

NOTE: Submission Frequency: Episode

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.